

THE Serpent of Deuision.

Wherein is conteined the true Histo-
ry or Mappe of Romes ouerthrowe, go-
uerned by Auarice, Enuye, and Pride, the
decaye of Empires be they ne-
uer so sure.

Three things brought ruine vnto Rome,
that ragnde in Princes to their ouerthrowe:
Auarice, and *Pride*, with *Enuies* cruell doome,
that wrought their sorrow and their latest woe.
England take heede, such chaunce to thee may come:
Fœlix quem faciunt aliena pericula cautum.

Whereunto is annexed the Tragedye of
Gorboduc, sometime King of this Land,
and of his two Sonnes, *Ferrex*
and *Porrex*.

* Set foorth as the same was shewed before the *Queenes*
most excellent Maiesty, by the Gentlemen
of the Inner Temple.

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AT LONDON
Printed by *Edward Allde* for *Iohn*
Perrin, and are to be sold in *Paules Church*
yard, at the signe of the Angell.

1590.

Serpent of Deceit.

Whence is contained the true History

of the Manner of Rome's overthrow, &c.

learned by Aristotle, Euclid, and Ptolemy, the

decay of Empires, &c.

and so forth.

Three things brought ruin into Rome,

that raised her to her height, and then overthrew her.

Power, and Wealth, with their cruel desires,

that wrought their fall, and their last end.

England took heed, such chance to them may come,

that they may learn, & avoid the same.

Whence is annexed the Tragedy of

Pericles, sometime King of this Land,

and of his two Sons, Pericles

and Demetrius.

* Serleth as the same was shew'd before the Queen

most excellent Majesty, by the Gentlemen

of the Inner Temple.

*

AT LONDON

Printed by Edward Allde for Iohn

Went and are to be sold in Pauls Church

under the Sign of the Angel.

1720.



To the Gentlemen Readers.



Entle and frendly Reader,
Diogenes beeing asked why Alexander greeued at the Percians pride, he then marching against Darias, answered that they robbed him of his right, and the honor due to him: by manna-
ging his martiall affaires, and renow-
med exploites. So if thou demaund why I publish out Cæsar in this simple manner, I answer; that being not able to doo as I would, I must doo as I can: therfore I yeeld I haue despoyled him of his honor as the Persians Alexander: be-
ing so merritorius of fame and renowne deserued at the gates or doores of death: but to saye somewhat to the pur-
pose, though not altogether so much as thou expectest: I cannot though I would paint him foorth in bare cullours, yet I know his vallour hath blazend his owne perpetuall honour in England, in Oyle cullours, which are of longest continuance: for note when he entred Brutes Albion, after called Brittain, and now of late England: in memory of his name, what rare monuments erected he after he had con-
quered Cassibilean of Albion, and made this Land paye yeerelye vnto Rome 3000. poundes tribute, then builded he Douer, with the two famous Citties, Canterburye and Rochester, the Tower of London, the Castell and the Town of Cesarisbury, now named Salisbury, and more ac-
cording to his owne name, he edified Cesar-chester, after called for brevitie sake Chichester, and after the strong Castell of Exeter.

To the Reader.

In the meane space his prefixed time was past, and he returning to Rome receiued his ouerthrow, which heerafter followeth: as for Marcus Crassus and proud Pompei, mention of them is also made, and very difficulte it is when the vpholder of their weale is ouerthrowne by priuie conspiracies: but such is the Serpent of deuision, sowing the seeds of subtilty, and with all harty sorrow thereunto following and annexed: I shall not neede then heere to make a rehearfall of that which followeth, let it suffice affable Reader, thou sit thee downe and patientlye with a Mer-maides eye peruse this small volume, or rather Mappe of Romes ouerthrowe, and thou wilt finde if thou compare our state with Romes, to be no lesse in danger and dread: I could if I would set downe the whole Conquestes of Iulius, but it would small auaille, sith it followeth more at large: onlye arme thy minde with patience, heere shalt thou see the authors of ruine, and the gaine selfe-will bringeth, robbing their hartes of all ease and comfort.

Heere shalt thou see also if with content thou peruse it, the wofull Tragedie of Gorboduc, and Ferrex and Porrex his two Sonnes, as it was presented before the Queenes Maiestie by the Gentlemen of the inner Temple, this with other no lesse profitable then delightfome, I commit to be censurde of thee, and loath to hold thee too long with cerious discourse:

I take my leaue.

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The

The Serpent of Deuision,

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*S*auncient Writers in their

Recozds and large vollumes make mention, when the noble and famous Cittie of Rome was most shining in her felicity, and splendant in her glozve: like as it is remembzed in the bookes of olde antiquitie, in the chæfest pride of her foundaton, when the walles were raised and erected

on high by the manly and pzudent willes of Remus and Romulus, those louing Bzothers: the Cittie stode vnder the gouernaunce of Kings, vntill the time that Tarquine Sonne to Tarquine, surnamed the pzoude: did the monstrous outrage and incestious rape of Lucrece the faire, wife to the woꝛthy Senatour Collatine, in the punishing of which hainous ill, by the manly pursuite of the nære Reuelwes of Collatine, and full assent and decree of the whole Senate: the name of Kings then ceased in the Cittie of Rome for euer, and all the royall progeny of Tarquine was proscrip̃t and put in euerlasting exile: when after by the pzudent aduise of the Consull and Senate, the Citie was gouerned between Counsellers, and so continued vnto the time that Pompei surnamed the pzoude, was returnde home from the late Conquest of Tye, which by warres, Artillery and maine force he had made subiect vnto the Empire of Rome, wheras with great woꝛthines of fame and magnificent pompe he was receiued and welcomde, insomuch that for his great noblenes he was admitted & selected one of the thre for to gouern the Cittie: the other two renowned and noted for manlye pzowesse, was Julius Cæsar, and Marcus Craffus, and by that meanes was the name of Counsailers conuerted to the names of Dictatoꝛs, which was at that time an office pertinent to Pzinces to rule ouer other: and for a speciall cause this office of a Dictatoꝛ, by decree and assent of all the Senate, was committed vnto thre: that if one offended, the other twain should be mighty and strong, seuerely to coꝛrect the third: and an other cause was this, while twain were busied in warre, the third should gouerne at home: and thus all the while they

A.ig.

were

were of one hart, one assent, and boide of barrying among themselves: *Rome* triumpht in honoz, and flowed in all prosperitie, but so soone as falsehode and Auerice did bying in Pride and vaine Ambition: that contagious Serpent of Deuision eclipsed the bright Sunne beames of her worthinesse.

So the intollerable pride of the part of Iulius, and after of the saide *Romaine* Statue, that contagious sinne Couetousnes intermedled with Enuie, on the partie of Pompei, making the Cittie of *Rome* fully waste and boide; not only of their innumerable riches from their royall Coffers, but caused them also to be barrain and desolate of their men, whom as befoze of their worthinesse, knight hood, and Chiuallrie, they were incomparable.

And finally the false deuision amongst themselves was moze importable vnto them, and caused moze the ruine and desolation of the Cittie, then when they warred with all the wo:ld: as this Sto:ry shall in ample manner expresse, and to conuey bræfely the p:osses of this matter, ye shall vnderstand: that Marcus Crassus Dictatour was sent to the partes of the North, with six legions, and elected knightes against that mightye and puissant Prince, the King and Lord of *Parthes*. And the manly victo: Iulius Caesar with other six legions of hardy *Romaines*, was sent down passing the huge boundes of *Lumbardy*, discending downe the high Alpes and marching downe by the large Plaines of *Germanie* and *Almaigne*, till by open Conquest and by force, he brought all *Fraunce* into subiection, and all the Land of *Burgoyne*, *Brabant*, *Flaunders*, and *Holland*: in which Conquest he continued, til almost the space of his Luster was wasted out, meaning his time, so tearmed then of the *Romans*, the length of five yers, and whosoever passed that time by any occasion of boyles abroad, or conquests noere at home: and not returned to *Rome* at his dated daye, and limited season: he I say was then fore iudged as arch Rebell and meere enemye to *Rome*.

But this famous and manly Dictato: or rather puissant and most high Conquerour Iulius, prudently holding in his opinion, that time lost, while Fortune is smiling and bestowing her fauours, he through the contagious occasion of negligence and Sloath, is after hardlye to be recovered, wherefoze of knight hood
and

and manlye pꝛowesse, he did set the *Romaines* statutes aside, and fully purposed in haute hart, to passe the bounds and time of his *Lustre*, and to enforçe him selfe with his pickt and chosen guard, to winne the beautilous boundes of *Brittaine*, and ouersaile by foꝛce the west part of our *Ocean*, but foꝛ all his illustrious pꝛide and hautie desires: he was twise beaten off at his arriuall, by the woꝛthy pꝛowesse of the *Brittaine* King, called by the name of *Casibelan*, and plainely without fauour to declare and specifie the trueth, he might neuer atteine his hartes desire in so great a conquest, till the ouer rash King *Casibelan* & *Androgenes* Duke of *Cornewall*, fell at debate and discoꝛde among themselues, wherby I may well conclude, that whiles vniety and loue stood vndeuided and vndeuided in the boundes of *Brittaine*, the mightye *Iulius* was quite vnable to vanquish the least parte of them, by which example therfoꝛe you may euidentlye consider and see, that enuey and méer mutanies, especially mongst noble mindes, is the originall cause of y^e perrishing of pꝛouinces, and of other regions: their destruction and dissolucion. Foꝛ when *Iulius* by the fauour of *Androgenes* recovered arriuall into *Brittaine*, in *Cornewall* side, shortlye after *Casibelan* the King, pꝛoudlye and yet knightlye, met with him, betwéen whom during a time ther was a moꝛtall war, but like as it is especialy remembꝛed and recoꝛded by the apte wꝛiting of that most woꝛthy graduate *Eusebeus*, the same daye when *Iulius* and *Casibelan* encountred other in the fælde, this woꝛthy *Brittaine* King had a woꝛthy warriour to his Brother, who with his *Swoꝛd*, with downe-right blowes, neuer ceased to oppꝛesse the pꝛoude *Romaine* Defendante knightes, so farre soꝛth that they fled and eschewed his *Swoꝛd* as their death. Foꝛ as he went, there was no resistance: and this continued so long, that the *Romaines* were not able to wage long warre, but with woe and gréefe to speake it, when he was wearied in fight, and past his strength to do moꝛe manly pꝛowesse: by crooked mishappe he met the *Romaine* *Iulius*, which two, egerly assaulting other, met with no little wonder, and fiercely maintaine battaile like *Lions* and *Tigers* seazing other with foming tuskes, yea, wounding other most moꝛtallye, till sodainely the glómye heauens began to frowne, and *Iulius* with a downe right blowe, clane his body

bodye in partes, whose name I finde in Records to be no other man then the Brother to the Brittain King, unhappy Cassibelan: the death of whome the Brittaines mourned many a day, and by whose end Iulius was made victorious, Cassibelan being brought in subiection vnto the Empire of Rome, and after constrained by Caesar to paye tribute thre thousand poundes euery yeere. And in the signe of this conquest and victorie, Iulius Caesar edified in this land for a perpetuall memoire, to put his name in remembrance, the strong Castell named *Douer*, the two Cities of fame *Canterbury* and *Rochester*, the *Tower of London*, the Castell and the towne of *Cesarisburie* which now is called by the name of *Salisbury*: and more, he edified *Cesar-chester*, that now is called *Chichester*, with the Castell of *Exeter*.

And in the meane time that Caesar had entirelye the gouernement of Brutes Albion, his fellowe Marcus Crassus of whome is made mention before, was slaine in the East parte of the worlde, while he made most cruell warre against the fierce people of *Parthes*, and for his greedy vnsatiable thirste of Couetousnes, his enemies slewe him in this manner.

They with a gag propt vp his two iawes, and into his wilde open mouth and throat, powred in moulten golde, saying to him these wordes while other did the dede, *Aurum sitiisti, aurum bibe*, meaning, thou hast thirsted after Golde all thy life time, now drinke Golde and dye. Loe here you may consider the shorte and the momentary end of this couetous warriour: and to present you with more matter of mone, Iulia the wife of Pompei, and Daughter to Caesar, shortly after died of a Childe, for which cause Pompeius pretended to finde a cause to reuoke Caesar againe to Rome, by assent and decre of all the Senate, to the entent that he should come in person to reuenge in all haste, the late death of his frendly fellowe Marcus Crassus, before violently slaine.

Now Pompei hauing a secret, bred in his conceite, least that Iulius should ware so mighty in his conquest, that he might not be equall of power, nor able to resist him in his repaire: and fearing also in his imagination least Iulius would of presumptuous pride vsurpe by tyranny and take vpon him the rule and domination of Rome, but this Conquerour Iulius, perceiuing y^e fraudulent meaning

ning of Pompei of the one side, and the compassed sleighte of the Senate of y other side, aduisedly gaue so2 answere, that he would accomplishe and perfozme his conquest which he had begun, and then humbly at their request returne to his natieue home againe, and thus the fire of Enuy began to kindle, enducing successiuelye warre and debate among themselues, and heerupon without delay to execute their purpose, and euidentlye to shewe the ende of their entent, Pompei and the Senate of one assent, without respit o2 deliberation, iudged Caesar guilty of disobedience, as a rebell and traitour to *Rome*: and vpon him pronounced this severe sentence of exile and prescription so2 euermore, but Iulius not considering no2 hauing no manner of euidence, ne suspicion of this malicious conspiracie that Pompei and the Senate wrought in iuriously against him, but as innocent of their enuious miallice, by good and dilligent deliberation of entent, sent his Ambassadors, not to his Sonne in Lawe Pompei, but vnto the worthy assembly of the Senate, and to all other of the Cittizens of the cittie, requiring them of equity and right, that so2 his meritorious desarte they should not be contrary against him, no2 so2 no occasion of wilfulness to deny vnto him his customable guirdon the which was due of olde antiquitie to be giuen to Conquerours, but that they would freely and vncompelled graunt him & put him in possession of the victorious Palme and triumphe, which so long by knightly labour and manly diligence he had so2 the encrease and the augmenting of the common proffit of all the Empire of *Rome* traualde so2: therfoze so2 to specifie and declare the honour and triumphe whilome vsed in *Rome*.

First, ye shall vnderstand that triumphes by discription is as much to saye, as a treble gladnes, o2 else a singuler excellency of ioy in thze manner of waies ordeined so2 victors, which thzough high renoune and manly fortitude had bzought Citties and also Kingdomes by way of knightly conquest, to be subiect and tributorie to the Empire and State of *Rome*: the first of the thze worships done to Conquerours was this. Firste at his repaire vnto the Cittie, all the people of high and low estate should with great ioye and reuerence in their best and richest array meet him on the waye, the second was this, that all the Prisoners and they that

were in captiuitie, should settred and manacled goe round about
 inuironing his Chariot, some befoze, some on y^e sides, and some be-
 hinde: and the third woꝛship was, that the Conquerour should be
 clad in a purple Mantle of their God Iupiter, & set in a Chariot of
 Golde, with a Crowne of Lawzell vpon his head, and about his
 necke, a manner of a circle made of golde also in similitude of a
 Palme, and if so that his Conquest were perfourmed and accom-
 plished without Sword or shedding of blood, the should the circle
 be forged without prick, and if otherwise his victoꝛy was finished
 by cruell fate and toles of warre, then of custome his circle or his
 pectorall was forged all full of sharpe pricks like thoznes, to shew
 that there is no Conquest accomplished fully to the end by mede-
 tation of warre, without there be felte and founde the sharpenes
 of aduersitie, and that after by death or else by pouertie: and this
 royall Chariot or seate of state to be drawne with fower white
 Steedes, thzough the cheefe Strættes of the Citty, to the Capi-
 tall, he hauing a Scepter in his hand, richly deuised, and on the top
 therof in signe of victoꝛy, an Eagle of Gold embost with Topais,
 Saphires, Diamonds, Rubies, and rich Carbuncles: and then a-
 gaine contrarily to shew that all worldly gloꝛy is transitoꝛy and
 not permanent, as also evidently to declare that in high estate is
 no irance, there was set at the back of the conquerour behinde
 in the goulden Chariot, the most vnlkely Person and the most
 wretch that in any countrey might be found, disfigured and clad
 in most vgly and monstrous manner that any man could deuise:
 and amid all the clamour and noise of the People to exlude the
 false surquedꝛy, vaine gloꝛy, and idle praises, this foule and vglye
 wretch should of custome strike the conquerour on the head and
 necke, saying to him in graeke these two woꝛdes (notys yolytos)
 which is as much as if he saide. Knowe thy selfe: which sheweth
 him that he noꝛ none other foꝛ such worldlye gloꝛye should at all
 war proude: and that day it was lawfull without punishment to
 euery man of hye or lowe estate, to say to him that was victour,
 what he would: whether it were of honour or woꝛship of repꝛaise
 or shame: and it was so admitted foꝛ this cause, that he should
 duely & truely consider, that there is no earthly gloꝛye may fullye
 be assured, without the deepe danger of Fortune, and to declare the

the difference betwene triumphes and Tropheum, I begin thus. Triumphe is a full and plaine ouercomming of enemies in fight, and Tropheum is, when a man putteth his foes to flight, without force or stroke of fatall Sword: but touching this honour as afore mentioned, which Iulius required & demaunded as his right, which he held meritorious, and therefore due: then Pompei with the full consent of all the Senate denied it all, in one voice to those his Ambassadors, answering briefly & withall sharply, he should not be accepted there vnto any such hono: but plainly they gaue him to vnderstand in their reple, that he rather deserued death: alleadging against him, that he was both Rebelle and Traitor to the statutes and edict of *Rome*.

But when Iulius clearly conceived the short and sharpe answer of the Senate, and of his Sonne in Law Pompei, there began to kindle freshe coales of enuye in Cæsars hart, to be auenged of vnnaturall Pompei, for so he thought him: and as Lucan telleth in his Poeticall discourses, the denying of Iulius his purchast hono: wonne amongst a thousand bright shining Swordes, was the chiefe ground and occasion of all the war that after began in *Rome*: but Lucan writeth that there were three especiall causes of their suddaine deuision amongst themselves: prouing by reason that in those three it must needs be, that the felicitie of *Rome* must of force decay, and these are they ensuing.

First, he saith it was necessary that such aduersitie should fall to *Rome*. Secondly, he saith it was consuetudinary: and lastly he saith it was voluntary. Firste that it was necessary, he proueth I: by example of nature in this manner: that like as Phœbus the Sunne when he ariseth in the orient, and by his successiue course ascendeth into the highest pointe of the mid day Sphere, and of his kinde and naturall course must descend, and hath his golden tressed horns in y^e western waues, and then dimmeth & darkneth our emisphere by the absence of his light: and also when the golden waine of Titan from the aire is whirled vp to y^e highest tower of his ascention, in the celestiall signe of the Crab, and then by the mighty compelling of natures right, he is constrained to descend downe and auaille his Chariote, euen so semblable there is no worldly worship so bright nor clere shining in earth, but that

sometimes it must encline and auaille downe as sone as he hath obtained to the highest and the most famous pointe of his ascention, so; like as the flowe when it hath raught his sturdy waues to the highest, sodainly followeth an ebbe and maketh it fall againe: in the same sozte, when any tempo; all prosperitie is most flowing in felicitie, then is a sodaine eb of aduersitie greatly to be feared: also in the same manno; as you may well discearn by the eye, in Trees and Hearbes, that when their vertue by the influence of the Sunne, is after the colde Winter: in Ver by little and little ascendeth into b;anches and bowes, and causeth them so; to bud and blossome newe: and in Hearbes maketh lustye and freshe colours newlge to appere: And mozeouer by proceste of time, with her holesome baulme apparrelleth the with many butious cullours, as red, white, græne, and then anon after in discente of Apollo, the Sun alaieth againe into the same root: so there is no felicitie o; happines so freshe and flowzing, but as sone as the shining Sunne of her glo; shineeth most clære, then ere they can take heed they be robbed and bereft of their great hono;, and plunged downe by occasion of some aduersitie: either by sicknesse o; by deathe: and thus the firste cause is naturall, and with all necessarye, and that all wo;ldly pompe shall passe, Lucan hath p;oued by reasonable and plaine discourses: then touching

2: the second cause, which is called customeable and consuetudinary, you may consider, that euer of custome it happeneth thus, when the wilfull and blinde goddess of variance hath enhaunced a man highest vpon her wheele, with a soddaine sigh she plungeth him downe againe: and maketh his fall moze vnfortunate, then he in all his chæse happines thought him selfe most fortunat.

- 3: Euidēt examples ye may see of Kinges and Princes, sometime living as we are: now touching the third cause of the destruction of the Cittie, Lucan calleth it voluntarie, which is as much to saye, plaine wilfulnes, without any ground of reason: so; only of wilfulnes they were so blinde, that they knewe not themselves, but thought themselves so assured in their felicitie, that they might not by occasion of aduersitie be once disturbed no; at al put out therof: and thus thzough false opiniōs they were made so wilfull, that none would obeye the other. And thus of
- contra,

contrarious discoꝛde among themselves only of voluntarie, they stood disseuered and deuided, which was one of the principall occasions of their destruction: and therefore Lucan nameth this voluntary, insomuch it is founded on will, and so by a cause necessary, a cause consuetudinary: and the last cause voluntary, the *Romaines* among themselves stood in such controuersie, that they stood in doubt to which parte to encline and yelde. And compendiously to declare of all the causes of deuision, how the war which is called bellum ciuile, as a ciuill mutanye among themselves, for the clære pꝛosses of which: firste, ye shall consider, that Iulius plainely enfourmed of the malicious conspiracie compassed and wrought against him, as he in his repaire out of *Aibion*, passed the bownds of *Almaigne*, and had attained the hye Alpes, which of Authoꝛs are called the huge frosty hilles and bownds of *Lumbar-dy*, and so holding his passage by the swifte floud, of Lucan called *Rubicon*, there appeared to him an ancient Lady sad and pensue, in a mantle of dreadfull black, her sometimes golden haire changed to white, her lookes whereon whilome Venus satte in maiestie, now long vissagde rather resembling Dipsas, whose age was moze then as yet I read of any woman, and to be short, this woman with constraint of her late woe, euen vpon the time whē the black night had ouerspread the louely Aethera with y border of her vgly glomy Cope: this wofull Lady in this manner on her knees began her lamentable complaint.

O you woꝛthy men at armes most renolnd of fame, alas whether purpose ye with your mightye foꝛce to passe: oꝛ where think you to fix your Standards, oꝛ display your Ensignes: alas, against whome are ye come to execute the mortall hate that flameth in your hartes, oꝛ against whom purpose you in this martiall manner to pꝛoue your might: remember I pray you, that you be vpholden by the Senate of *Rome*, and your selues accounted foꝛ noble and woꝛthy knightes of the Cittie, then shew not your selues now enemies to the Empire, by whose woꝛthines in times past it hath been sustained, and mightily supported against all her enemies: but alas consider in your hartes the noble and the prudent statutes of the pollicie of *Rome*, which plainely expꝛesseth that it is lawfull foꝛ none to passe this streame if he be mortall enemye

nemye and Rebelle vnto *Rome*, now then you that haue bene so long time friends, and so worthely maintaine the honoꝝ of the Cittie, withdraue your ouer rash steppes, and haste not too fast vnto your owne ruine, but let good deliberation restraine your willes, whome wilfulnes leades headlong to confusion: not to your selues only, but to the ruine of the Cittie, by the shedding of much blood which is likely to ensue.

And when this Lady had brāfely expꝛessed the summe of her sentence, without moꝛe ceremonies, she sodainly departed: which Iulius seeing, partely dismayed at this vncouth aparance, restrained his halle, and made his Souldiers to fetch their Tentē ends, long oꝛ the Stronde vpon the hinder partes of the Riuer, and in a meane twixt feare and foꝛward marching, standing stil in pen- sive manner, saide in this wise.

O thou mighty Iupiter, vnder whose demaīn Vulcanus forgeth the dreadfull sounds of thunder, and causeth hartes to arise in iust quarrells, and oh ye Gods and Goddesses that whilome had the gouernment of our Auncestours in *Troy*, and O ye noble Gods Remus and Romulus, the famous founders of the Cittie of *Rome*, I as humble Subiect to your Dietie, fall lowe beseeching you, and entirely entreate you of equitie and right, in being fauourable to promote my true quarell and iust cause, and beninglye of your bounteous goodnes to fauour & foꝛtune the high enterprise which of iust title I purpose foꝛ life oꝛ honoꝛable death through your fa- uours to erreute: but not as enemye noꝛ Rebelle to *Rome*, but as a true Cittizen and a proued Knight suffer me gentle Gods and Goddesses to perseuer with expedition, that like as I haue deser- ued, I may be worthely receiued, making a firme protestation that not as enemy but as frēd and subiect to *Rome*, I will be al- waies sound stedfast and true, wherefoꝛe ye noble Senatours of *Rome*, I require you of my right, that causeles ye admit nothing against me by the name of gilte, in so much I come with strong and mighty hand, and that I encurre not the boundes of the im- periall franchise, making a full protestation that onely with a cleane conscience, not infected with folly, noꝛ intricated with no euill meaning. foꝛ that I come to you to be receiued as your wel- willing frēd, no moꝛtall foe, daring also to hold him whatsoeuer
he be

he be so; arch enemy to your selues and me: so that my merritorious guirdon which I haue in my conquest deserued, be not denied me: I am then and euer will be so; life or death a true Knight to your Cittie, to my liues end.

And forthwith making no delay, like a Lyon not dismaide or affrighted, first of all in his owne person he past the Riuer, which Riuer as Lucan remembzeth, the same instant at his comming contrary to it customable course, was raised on hys vnto a great flood, and all the white snowe Alps were dissolued into water with the heate of Phœbus raies, whereby the Riuers in the valies were so high raised, that no man might passe, but Iubus dismaied no whit, but like a conquerour assured him selfe in the presence of all his woorthy Knights, saide in this wise: here I leaue behinde me all the confederaties made twixt *Rome* and me, and here I leaue all the frendship of olde antiquitie, and onely now follow the steppes of Fortune, and with zealous entent begin a rightfull warre, so; that by meditation of peace proffered on my side, I may not attaine to my title of right, and without more delaye he marcht on, the multitude of his Knightes entred into the Cittie named *Armie*, a cittie pertinent to *Rome*. And there he tooke his first possession of the Empire, none there was so hardy to resist or withstand the fure of his Sword, and all this time the *Romaines* standing in a doubt to which parte they should encline, whether to *Cæsar* or to *Pompei*, so; of charitie that they had to their wiues and children, and to the olde statutes of the Cittie, they were fauourable to *Pompei*, and of feare they had of *Cæsars* Sword then at hand, they stood in so great doubt and feare, that suddainly they knew not best what to do.

Loe how the mostall enuye of twaine was cause and occasion that the noble cittie which had almost all the worlde in subiection and was called *Ladye* and *Empresse* of all regions, was brought into destruction, so; in these two firste began the deuision which neuer after might againe well be restozed to vnitie and reconcile again, whereby sœmeth vnto men that all prudent Princes which haue the due regiment of prouinces and regions of woorth, should by this take example how much vnitie and loue more auaileth then deuision, I wil therfoze rehearse an excellent example which

Valerius

Valerius setteth downe, and it is this.

That time the cittie of *Rome* stood in no little pomp, very likely also to haue bene deuided, of a sole debate that was suddenlye begun among themselues, at that time there was a wise Philosopher amongst them, which of his discrecion considered the great perrill, that was likely to followe, and though he would of wisdom make frustrate that which might ensue, he in pzenence of all the Lords and Citizens, caused a Horse with a huge long & thick taile to be brought forth, commaunding the mightiest champion to set on both his handes, and assaye if by maine force he might pull of the taile at one stretch, and albeit he omitted no strength for the perfourmance therof, yet in the end it would not pzenaile: wherfoze this wise philosopher called befoze the Senate the most impotent & lame man of al the cittie, and with age crooked, commaunding him haire after haire to pull of the Horse taile, who did so, and left the Steede naked and bare, beholde quoth the Philosopher, that while the taile of the Horse was whole and euery haire conioynde with other, the mightiest champion in the deuiding it might not pzenaile, but whē euery haire was deuided and dissennered from other, he that was least of power among you all, neuer left til the taile was brought to nothing, and the horse left bare, by which example saide the Philosopher, prudently aduerte and wisely consider, that as long as ye be one in your selues, and of one minde and hart, there is none so strong, that may auaille by force to attempt your woorthinesse, but as sone as among your selues one is from other deuided, your enemies though they be impotent of power, they shall in proccesse of time pluck alwaye the fairest feathers of your woorthines. And by this example the philosopher reconciled the *Romaines* againe to vnitie and peace, and so banished foule deuision from among themselues.

Now compendiously to resozte againe to our matter, the *Romaines* standing in great controuerisie among themselues, vnto which parte they should cleaue, the Gods by many signes & prognostications declared vnto them, the great mischeef that was like to ensue: for there appeared many strange sights, as blazing Comets, which are seldome sene but fozetell the falles of Princes, and men: yaire with flaming bzandes casting fier, others with fierye

fiery Dartes and Sharpe hooked arrowes, shooting in the aire, and especially ther appered a large Commit of stremes, whose branches reacht on the foure plagues on the firmament, and the Sun also when he shone most bright in the meredionall plague, the day sodainely turned to night, and the pale Moone against the common course of her kinde, sodainly was eclipsed of her light, and further the sea Circle was on the sodaine also turned into bloud, all the Hounds in the cittie of *Rome* left their barking, and howled and grinned as signe of great sorrow that was to come, and also the superstitious fier which continually burned in the Temples of their Gods, called Vesta, the same flames euer being bright vpon her Altars: by the which fiers of the olde time was prophesied, that as sone as it deuided and parted, as it did then: that the feastes and solemnities of *Rome* should cease. And like as the smoakes of the funerall fiers of the Theban Brethren departed at Thebes, euen so the deuiding of fiers vpon the Romishe Altars, was a true signe and shew of their after deuision that fell among themselues.

Finally, to declare to euery region, that wheras the fier of love and charetie standes deuided among themselues, it is verie euident that without remedy it draweth to his destruction: also it is a sure token that deuision should follow, when the coming waues of the Sea surmounted the height of *Achlandes* hilles: likewise all the rich Images in the *Romain* Temples, which were made of golde, siluer, and diuers other mettalles, as they stood in their rich and costly Tabernacles, they were seen in y^e time of deuision, woefully complaining and weeping, that the teares of men distilled from their eyes to beholde it: Birdes also against the custome of their nature were seene flying in the nightes, and Beastes also were heard speaking, and women brought forth monstrous children, yea all these vncooth wonders befell but a very little before this deuision in the great Cittie of *Rome*: for the dreadfull time approached full nêr, of the which Cibell so long had prophesied before, when she sent the short summe of her sentence to the Senators of *Rome* in the number of six Letters, R.R.R. F.F.F. which were fully the prognostication of six mischæses that should of necessity fall vnto the Cittie of *Rome*, comprehending in the six letters

The Serpent

ters specified in this maner, Regna, Rome, Ruent: Fero, Flamme, Fame, the region of *Rome* by thre thinges shall drawe to ruine, first by the Sword of war amongst themselves, and next by fier and then by Hunger: the which thre mischaunces so contagiouslye shall assaile the Cittie, that it shall be very importable vnto the, and the ground & roote of all this confusion, shall be among themselves by discorde and deuision.

Furthermoze to declare sundrye prognostications that fell in their Cittie, when the Priestes made sacrifices to their Gods, their fiers soddenlye quenched, and in the graues and Sepulchers of dead men, there was heard wofull and lamentable noyses and soundes, which did put the people in very great feare, and in this wise the ruine was declared, firste, by diuers figures and sundrye likenesses of starres blazing in the heauens, and then by wonderfull monsters on the earth, also the birdes and the Fowles of the aire, came without feare flying into the Cittie, by which signe their Augures expounded it to their confusion: and they by manifolde mo signes then I maye or can declare: the subuersion of the Cittie ful long was shewed befoze, only begun of this contagious deuision: but shortly to entreate the substance of the storie:

When that Cæsar with strong hand approached *Rome*, after he had conquered the Cittie of *Armye*, and had also conquered *Ra- uenne*, and *Pompei* which for feare was fled toward the partes of *Greece* to make him selfe strong, they of *Rome* had shortlye determined in sentence, that Cæsar might not enter the Cittie, vnneths his Armye were dismiss and lefte somewhat behinde: but when they knew and saw him so mighty and strong, they began to quaille in their hartes, and especialllye they being destitute of a Gouvernoze, for that diuers Dukes of *Pompei* drew to the partes of *Italie*, into a Cittie called *Dirachium*, and euer this worthy warriour Cæsar pursued after, and al such as made resistance: he forciblye slue, the remnant he put manlye to flight, and daye by daye the power of Cæsar gan multiplie and encrease, and maugre all his enemies, of force he entred the Cittie, and as some Authoers expresse, when the *Romaines* for feare were ready to receiue him by their gates, he of indignation and disdain battred the walles, and violently entred as a Conquerour, and iustified the

Romaines

Romaines as his proper right, and tooke on him the gouernement not only of the cittie, but of al the whole Empire: and despite of the Senate he brake the brazen dooze of their treasure, and by plaine violence tooke it away, and with liberall minde gaue it to his followers, in the mean time, many Kings of the East part of the worlde came and assembled befoze the foresaide Cittie called *Dirachium*, of entent to aid the distressed state of Pompei against Cæsar, and as soone as relation was made to Cæsar of this great assembly, he made no delaye, but with all his power passed by the cuntrie named *Epirum*, and so he entred into the Castell of *Thes-salye*, where he found Pompei, which entred pell mell with him with fourescoze and eight Cohozts deuided into wardes.

Now to declare the number of a Cohozte, ye shall vnderstand that there be two manner of Cohozts, the moze and the lesse: the moze containeth siue hundzeth, and the lesse foure hundzeth: there were also on the parte of Pompei forty thousand of footmen, and in the left wing there were beside these, siue hundzeth knights on Horse mounted, and in the right wing there were siue hundzeth, amongst which, as Vincent in his mirrour Histori-call maketh mention, there were many Kings and princes, and other woorthye Senatozs and Romaine knightes, which came willingly in defence of Pompei, and as it is remembred also Cæsar had in number fourescoze Cohoztes deuided and seuered in thzee wings, and with them he had thirtie thousand of footmen, and many braue knightes on horsebacke, and in this mortall battaile: the chæfe parte of Pompei were put to flight, and there were slaine on his side twelue thousand, and of woorthye leaders, which he called Centurians, were slaine thirtie and thzee, and Pompei him selfe fled out of the fælde, and for refuge and aide took a Ship and passed by the boundes of *Asia* thzough *Thyry*, and arriued in *Egypt*, and there at his arriuall by the cammaundement of Ptolome the *Egyptian* King, was beheadded, onlve for loue and fauour of Cæsar, and for this victorie Cæsar hastened to the partes of *Syrie*, toward the mightye Cittie *Alexandria*: and there Ptolome helde a fierce battaile with Cæsar both on land and Sea: in which warre were slain twenty two thousand in the feld, and twelue hundzeth Shippes discomfited quite and overwhelmed, Ptolome the King

C y.

as he

as he would haue fled out of a Ship, soz haffe fell into the Sea and there perished also: and as his body was cast on land, he was known and discovered by a gylte Haberton, which Haberton Iulius Cæsar made to be sent to the Cittie of *Alexandria*, soz feare of which, they yelded the Cittie wholly vnto him: then he repaired againe into *Egipt*, and by occasion of Ptolomes death, he gaue the Scepter and Kealme vnto the Quæne Cleopatra, and so after conquest of many other Prouinces, regions and Lands: he made his repaire the second time to the Cittie of *Rome*, and there he did take vpon him two offices, both Consull and Dictatoz.

And from thence he went vnto the conquest of *Affricke*, and there began new warre, especially against all the alliance and the blood of Pompei, killing al the Dukes that fauoured Pompei, amongst whom were slaine thre mighty Princes, Faustus, Cilla, and Postumus, and Pompeia the Daughter of Pompeia iudged befoze to be dead: And from these parts he entred with a mighty and strong hand into *Spaine* and there (so as Swetonius writeth) he tooke vpon him power to receiue the tribute which from *Spaine* was due vnto *Rome*. And as this Stozye maketh mencion, he proceeded so farre in his conquest, till he came to the huge and hye pillers of *Gades*, and there he entred into the Temple, of y strong mightye Champion Hercules, and when he behelde in the same Temple a rich image of Gold set vp soz a memozy of King Alexander, anon this Cæsar gan to sigh and complain in him self, that he neuer might attaine to his conquestes to deserue so vidozious a palme of worthines, as in their time did Alexander and Hercules: and pensiuelye comming forth of the Temple, he fullye purposed couragiouslye to take vpon him manlye courage, as some new enterprises of high prowesse: and whilst thus he surprised in his thoughts, the next night ensuing, he had a wonderfull vision in his sleepe, of the which he was greatlye græued, so he called his wise Philosophers to giue him the interpretation of his dreame, and they anon concluded in short sentence that it was an euident signe that he should be fallye put in the possession to haue the imperiall domination over all the Worlde, soz those prudent Philosophers vnderstood nothing by the fleshlye coniunction that he had with his mother: but a knot of alliance persourmed be-

twæne the earth and him, vnderstanding in their exposition that the earth is primoꝛdiall mother of all things, concluding thereby that he should attaine to be Lord and Emperour euer all the partes of the earth, and thus in all haste after the mightye conquest of *Affricke*, he came the third tyme to *Rome*: And there was made Emperour of all the worlde, and was soꝛ euer so exalted in such titles of dignitie, that the Sunne of his worthines was runne so farre vpon his Sphere, that it attained to the hiest prick of his exaltation, so that of force it must descend: soꝛ as the Story maketh mencion, he continued not in his Empire full ye the space of fine yeeres: And soꝛ to rehearse perticularly the prodigious and wonderfull signes that befell befoꝛe his death: it is therfoꝛe remembꝛed, that the same yeere that Iulius died, in the Ile of *Capwey* there was found by quarriours of the Cuntry, a rich Tombe of Stone, and therin was found a table of Golde grauen with Letters of Greeke to this effect: When it shall befall that the Tombe of *Capis* shall be opened, and that his bones shall be vnclosed, that same yeere shall the noble and worthy conquerour Iulius Cæsar be murdered in the Romaine Capitoll, by the false conspiracie and imagination of them that he hath most trusted: this foꝛesaide *Capis* was a worthy man and of great authoritie, and the first founder and beginner of *Capwey*. and named it after his name, and as the Letters in Greeke tolde, it so befell: and the second ominous accident that fell befoꝛe his death was this, vpon the same night befoꝛe he was thus violently vsed, this noble conquerour Iulius had a reuelation, y seemed to him in his slep that he was winged like an Eagle, and how he took his flight so hye, that he soꝛed aboue the Skies, and approached to the celestiall seate of Iupiter, and fell downe vpon the right hand of his God: another marueilous signe there was, also his wife named *Calyphurna* had a dreame oꝛ vision, seeming vnto her in her carefull slepe that the huge and highest pinnacle of the imperiall Pallace sodeinlye fell downe, and incontinently all the windowes of her Chamber where she then lay without hand of any one, start from their places, the strong barres of Iron brake and flew in peeces, of which noise she being wonderfully affrighted, sighed soꝛe in her hart, and so awook not able to conceaue in mind what it ment.

C.ij.

Also

The Serpent

Also as Vincent in his hystoricall booke maketh mencion, an hundred daies before his murder, in the market place of *Rome*, whereas the statue and Image of Caesar stood upon a hye Piller of Stone, the name of Caesar grauen with Letters of Golde aboue his head, when as the wether & dis tempered aire was most clear and still, with a sodain stroke of the fiery element, the first Letter C was smitten away: declaring that as this Letter C in number betokeneth an hundred, and was also most wylke wrought as the cheefe and cappitall Letter of his name, to shew openlye that he that was head of all the earth, within a hundred daies next ensuing: should be pittously murdered and made away in *Rome*. Also y^e same day of Caesars vnluckt for dissolution, as he went most royally in his imperiall aray, toward the Consistory, a poore man named Tongilius, deliuered into his owne handes Letters of all the conspiracies of the Senate vpon his end, but for he was negligent to vnfolde those Letters, wherein was containde the Cataloge of his cares and the shortning of his princely life: therfore not long after this detested and monstrous murder was executed vpon him, by which example let no man be slow nor negligent to peruse Letters, least after for his own negligence it may turne to his utter damage and ruine, which after may no waye be recalled: And the cheef worker of this murder, was Brutus Crassus, associated with two hundred and sixtye of the Senate: all hauing Bodkins in their sleeves: and as it is written in *Stories*, he had twentye sower deadly woundes as he sat in the Capitall.

And as saith diuers Records, he neuer in all his smart made cry nor noise, except only a lamentable sigh like one whom sodain sorrow had affrighted, so that touching the manner of his tragedy: I may conclude with y^e flower of Poets in our English tongue, and the first that euer elumined our language with flowers of rethorick & eloquence: I mean famous and worthy Chaucer.

which compendiously wrought the death of
this mightye Emperour,
saying thus.

With Bodkins was *Caesar Julius*,
Murdred at *Rome*, of Brutus Crassus.
When many a Region he had brought full lowe:
Lo: who may trust Fortune any throw.

THus by the large writings and golden vollums of that woorthye Chaucer, the froward Dame of Chaunce hath no respecte of persons, she spareth neither the Emperour nor King, but from the hiest place of honor she makes him fall lowe, wherby his fall is more infamous : alas that neuer man list vp his hartes eye, and prudently to aduerte the mutabilitie and the sodaine chaunge of this false worlde : let therefore the wise Gouvernours of euery Land and Region, make this example a mirrour to their minds, of this manly man Iulius, and consider in their harts the contagious harmes and importable dammages of the serpent of deuision, and let them see aduisedlye how the ambitious pride of hautie Iulius Cæsar, the fretting enuye of Pompeius: and the vnstaunchable-greedye couetise of Marcus Crassus : were the cheefe causes of their destruction, executed and accomplished by cruell death. And not only that these aforesaide three abominable vices were cause of their owne deathes, but occasion of the ruyne of many thousands more then I can at this time expresse.

Thus the Cittie of Rome not only made bare & barren of her olde riches and spoyled of her great Treasures on the one side, but destitute and also desolate of their manly and puissant Knights on the other side: this makes vs consider the irrecuperable harmes of deuision, and for this cause only at the imperious command of my Maister I tooke vpon me this small translation, and though breeflye: yet plainelye and truely, I haue put it in remembrance.



FINIS.

Thus by the large wings and golden volumes of his
 voice the Chancelor, the learned Prince of Chance
 hath no respect of persons, the speech is not the
 Emperor nor King, but nature the place of honor she
 makes him tall lowe, whereby his fall is more infamous: a
 laster never man live yet the nature eye, and providence
 to advance the multitude and the disadvantage of this
 false world: therefore the wife Governors of every
 Land and Region, make this example a pattern to their
 hands, of this many man things, and consider in their hearts
 the contagious diseases and impostures, the images of the
 respect of opinion, and in their hearts, and live how the
 ambitious pride of human things, the true nature
 of Pomposity and the vain and greedy conceits of
 Marcus Crassus: were the chief causes of their destruction
 or, excused and recompensed by well dealing. And not on-
 ly that these storied and admirable virtues were causes
 of their own deaths, but occasion of the ruin of many
 thousands more then I can at this time expresse.
 Thus the Cline of Rome not only made bare the pattern
 of her old riches and spoiled of her great Treasures on the
 outside, but defunct and also desolate of their inward
 quality: Knights on the other side: this makes us consider
 the irreparable harmes of debility, and for this reason
 ly at the important command of my Master I looke
 upon me this small translation, and though
 precisely yet plainly and truly, I have
 put in a remembrance.

FINIS.



THE
Tragedie of Gorbo-
duc, *whereof three Actes were writ-*
ten by Thomas Norton, and the two last by
Thomas Sackuyle.

Set forth as the same was shewed before the Queenes
most excellent Maiesty, in her highnes Court of
Whitehall, by the Gentlemen of
the Inner Temple.



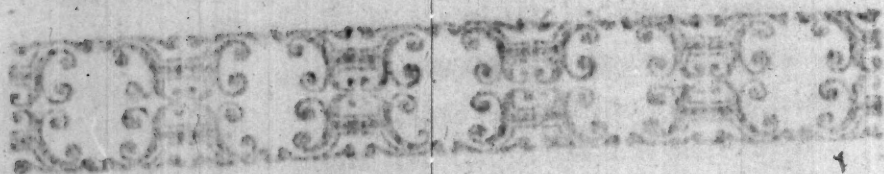
AT LONDON,
Printed by *Edward Allde* for *Iohn*
Perrin, and are to be sold in *Paules Church-*
yard, at the signe of the Angell.

1590.

THE
Tragedie of Gordio

duc, whereof three Actes were writ
ten by Thomas Norton, and the two last by
Thomas Kyd.

Set forth as the same was shewed before the Queenes
most excellent Maiesty, in her highnes Court of
Witchhall, by the Gentlemen of
the Inner Temple.



AT LONDON
Printed by Edward Allde for Iohn
Berrin, and are to be sold in Pauls Church
yard, at the signe of the Angel.

1590.

The Argument of the Tragedie.

3

GORBODUC, king of Brytaine, deuised his Realme in his life time to his Sonnes, Ferrex and Porrex. The Sonnes fell to deuision and dissention. The yonger killed the elder. The mother that more dearly loued the elder, for reuenge killed the yonger. The people moued with the crueltie of the fact, rose in rebellion and slew both father and mother. The Nobilitie assembled, and most terribly destroyed the Rebels. And afterwards for want of Issue of the Prince, whereby the succession of the Crowne became uncertaine, they fell to Ciuill warre, in which both they and many of their Issues were slaine, and the lande for a long time almost desolate and miserably wasted.

The names of the Speakers.

Gorboduc, king of great Brytaine.

Videna, Queene and wife to king Gorboduc.

Ferrex, Elder Sonne to king Gorboduc.

Porrex, Yonger Sonne to king Gorboduc.

Clotyn, Duke of Cornewall, & Mandud, Duke of

Fergus, Duke of Albury. } Leagre.

Gwenard, Duke of Cumberlande.

Eubulus, Secretarie to the king Gorboduc.

Arostus, A Counsellour of king Gorboduc.

Dordan, A Counsellor assigned by the king to his eldest Sonne Ferrex.

Philander, A counsellor assigned by the king to his yonger Sonne Porrex.

Both being of the old kings counsell before.

Hermon, A Parasite remaining with Ferrex.

Tyndar, A Parasite remaining with Porrex.

Nuntius, A messenger of the elder brothers death.

Nuntius, A messenger of Duke Fergus rising in Armes.

Marcella, A Lady of the Queenes priuy chamber.

Chorus, Foure auncient and sage men of Brytaine.

A. ij.

The

**¶ The Order of the dumbe shewe
before the first Act, and the signi-
fication thereof.**

¶ First the Musike of Violenze began to play, du-
ring which came in vpon the Stage six wilde men,
clothed in leaues. Of whome the first bare on his
necke a fagot of small stickes, which they all both
seuerallye and together assayed with all their
strengths to breake, but it could not be broken by
them. At the length one of them pulled out one of
the stickes and brake it: And the rest plucking out
all the other stickes one after another, did easilie
breake the same being seuered, which being con-
ioyned, they had before attempted in vaine. After
they had this done, they departed the stage, and the
Musike ceased. Hereby was signified, that a state
knit in vnitie dooth continue strong against all
force, but heing deuided, is easily destroyed. As be-
fell vpon Duke Gorboduc, deuiding his Lande to
his two sonnes which he before helde in Monar-
chie. And vpon the dissention of the brethren to
whom it was deuided.

The

The Tragedie of Gorboduc.

5

Actus primus.

Scena prima.

Viden.

Ferrex.

The silent night that brings the quiet pause,
From painefull trauailes of the weary Daye:
Belongs my carefull thoughts & makes me blame
The slowe Aurora that so for loue or shame
Doth long delay to shew her blushing face,
And now the day renewes my griefull plainte.

Viden.

My gracious Lady and Mother deere,
Pardon my græfe for your so græued minde
To aske what cause tormenteth so your hart.

Ferrex.

So great a wrong and so vniust despite,
Without all cause against all course of kinde.

Viden.

Such causelesse wrong and so vniust despite,
May haue redresse, or at the least reuenge.

Ferrex.

Neither my Sonne, such is the froward will,
The person such, such my mishap and thine.

Viden.

Pine know I none, but græfe for your distresse:

Ferrex.

Yes: mine for thine my Sonne: A father: no:

Viden.

In kinde a father, but not in kindelynes.

My father: why? I know nothing at all,
Wherin I haue mildone vnto his Grace.

Ferrex.

Wherefore, the more unkinde to thee and me,
For knowing well my (Sonne) the tender loue
That I haue borne and beare to thee,
He græu'd therat, is not content alone,
To spoyle thee of my sight my chæfest Ioye,
But thee, of thy birth-right and Heritage
Causelesse, unkindely and in wrongfull wise,
Against all Law and right he will bereaue,
Halfe of his Kingdome he will giue away.

Viden.

To whome?

Ferrex.

Even to Porrex his yonger Sonne

Viden.

Whose growing Wyde I doe so soze suspect,
That being raised to equall rule with thee,

Me

The Tragedye

He thinkes I see his enuious hart to swell,
Filde with disbaire and with ambitious pride,
The end the Gods doe knowe, whose Altars I
Full oft haue made in vaine of Cattell slaine,
To send the sacred smoake to heauens Throne,
For the my Sonne if thinges so succede,
As now my Felious minde misdæmeth soze.

Ferrex.

Madam leaue care and carefull plainte for me,
Iust hath my Father bene to euery wight,
His firste vniustice he will not extend
To me I trust, that giue no cause therof,
My Brothers pride shall hurt him selfe not me.

Viden.

So graunt the Gods: But yet thy Father so
Hath firmly fixed his vnmoued minde
That plaintes and pzaiers can no whit auaille,
For those haue I assaied, but euen this daye,
He will endeuour to procure assent,
Of all his Counsell to his sonde deuise.

Ferrex.

Their Auncestours from race to race haue bozne
True faith to my forefathers and their seede,
I trust they eke will beare the like to me.

Viden.

Where resteth all, but if they faile therof,
And if the end bzing forth an euill successe
On them and theirs the mischæse shall befall,
And so I pray the Gods requit it them,
And so they will, for so is wont to be
When Lordes and trusted Rulers vnder Kinges
To please the present fancy of the Prince,
With wrong transpole the course of gouernaunce
Murders, mischæse, or ciuill sword at length,
Or mutuall treason, or a iust reuenge,
When right succeeding Line returnes againe
By loues iust Iudgement and deserved wrath
Bzinges them to ciuill and reprochfull death,
And wotes their names and kindreds from the earth.

Ferrex.

Viden.

Wother content you, you shall see the end.

The end: thy end I feare, loue end me first.

Actus

Actus primus Scena secundus.
Gorboduc. Aroftus. Philander. Eubulus.

MY Lozds whose graue aduise and faithfull aide,
Haue long vphelde my honour and my Realme,
And brought me from this age and tender yeres,
Guiding so great estate with great renolune:
Now moze impoꝛteth me the erst to vse
Your faith and wisdom wherby yet I raigne,
That when by death my life and rule shall cease,
The kingdome yet may with vnbroken course,
Haue certaine Prince, by whose vndoubted right,
Your wealth and peace may stand at quiet stay,
And eke that they whom Nature hath preparde,
In time to take my place in Princely Seate,
While in their fathers time their pliant youth,
Peldes to the frame of skilfull gouernaunce
May so be taught and trained in noble Artes,
As what their fathers which haue raignde befoze,
Haue with great fame deriued downe to them
With honour they may leaue vnto their seede:
And not be taught foꝛ their vnwoꝛthy life,
And foꝛ their lawlesse swaruing out of kinde,
Woꝛthy to lose what Law and kind them gaue
But that they may pꝛeserue the common peace,
The cause that first began and still maintaines,
The Lineall course of Kinges enheritaunce,
Foꝛ me, foꝛ mine, foꝛ you, and foꝛ the state
Wherof both I and you haue charge and care.
Thus doe I meane to vse your wonted faith
To me and mine, and to your native Land,
My Lozdes be plaine without all wyꝛe respect
Oꝛ poysons craft to speake in pleasing wise,
Least as the blame of ill succeeding thinges
Shall light on you, so light the harmes also.

Your good acceptaunce fo (most noble King)

Gorboduc.

Aroftus.

Of

The Tragedye

Of such your faithfulness as hertofore
 We haue employed in dueties to your Grace,
 And to this Realme whose worthy head you are,
 Well proues that neither you mistrust at all,
 For we shall neede no boasting wise to shew,
 Our trueth to you, nor yet our wakefull care
 For you, for yours, and for our native land,
 Wherefore (O King) I speake for one as all,
 With all as one doe beare you egall faith:
 Doubt not to vse their counsailes and their aides
 Whose honours, goods and liues are whole auowed,
 To serue, to aide, and to defend your grace.

Corboduc.

My Lordes I thank you all. This is the case
 Ye know, the Gods, who haue the soueraigne care,
 For Kings, for Kingdoms, and for common weales,
 Gaue me two Sonnes in my more lusty Age,
 Who now in my deceiuing yeres are growen
 Well towards riper state of minde and strength,
 To take in hand some greater princely charge,
 As yet they liue and spend their hopefull daies,
 With me and with their Mother here in Court:
 Their age now asketh other place and trade,
 And mine also doth aske an other change,
 Theirs to more trauaile, mine to greater ease:
 When fatall death shall end my mortall life,
 My purpose is to leaue betwene them twaine,
 The Realme deuided into two sundry partes:
 The one, Ferrex mine elder sonne shall haue,
 The other, shall the other Porrex rule
 That both my purpose may more firmly stand,
 And eke that they may better rule their charge,
 I meane forthwith to place them in the same:
 That in my life they may both learne to rule,
 And I may ioy to see their ruling well.
 This is in summe, what I would haue you wey:
 First whether ye allow my whole deuice,
 And think it good for me, for them, for you,

And

And foꝛ our Countrey, mother of vs all;
And if ye like it, and allowe it well,
Than foꝛ their guiding and their gouernance,
Shew foꝛth such meanes of circumstance,
As ye thinke meete to be both knowne and kept:
Loe, this is all, now tell me your aduise.

Arostus.

And this is much, and asketh great aduise,
But foꝛ my part, my Soueraigne Lord and king,
This doe I thinke your Maiestie doth know,
How vnder you in Justice and in peace,
Great wealth and honour long we haue enjoyed,
So as we cannot seeme with greedie minds
To wish foꝛ chaunge of pꝛince oꝛ gouernance,
But if ye like your purpose and deuise,
Our liking must be deemed to pꝛocæde,
Of rightfull reason and of heedfull care,
Not foꝛ our selues, but foꝛ our common state:
With our owne state doth need no better chaunge,
I thinke in all, as earst your Grace hath saide,
First when you shall vnloade your aged minde,
Of heauie care and troubles manifolde,
And lay the same vpon my Lords your sonnes,
Whose growing yeres may beare the burden long,
And long I pray the Gods to graunt it so:
And in your life while you shall so behold
Their rule, their vertues, and their noble dædes,
Such as their kind behighteth to vs all,
Great be the profits that shall grow thereof,
Your age in quiet shall the longer last,
Your lasting age shall be their longer state,
Foꝛ cares of kings, that rule as you haue rulde,
Foꝛ publike welth, and not foꝛ pꝛiuate ioy,
Do wasse mans life and hasten crooked age,
With furrowed face, and with enfebled lims,
To draw on cꝛæping Death a swifter pace.
They two yet yong shall beare the partie reigne
With greater ease than one now olde alone

The Tragedye

Can welde the whole, for whom much harder is
With lessened strength the double weight to beare
Your eye, your counsell, and the graue regard
Of fathers, yea of such a fathers name,
Now at beginning of their sundred reigne,
When it is hazard of their whole successe,
Shall bide so their forces of youthfull heates,
And so restraine the rage of insolence,
Which most assailes the yong and noble minds,
And so shall guide and traine in tempred stay
Their yet greene bending wits with reuerent awe,
And now imbde with vertues at the first,
Custom (O king) shall bring delightfulness
By vse of vertue, vice shall grow in hate,
But if you so dispose it, that the day
Which ends your life, shall first begin the reigne,
Great is the perill, what shall be the ende,
When such beginning of such liberties
Hoide of such states as in your life doe lie,
Shall leaue them to free random of their will
An open pray to traiterous flatterie.
The greatest pestilence of noble youth:
Which perill shall be past, if in your life
Their tempred youth with aged fathers awe
Be brought in vse of skilfull stayednes,
And in your life their liues disposed so,
Shall length your noble life in ioyfulness:
Thus thinke I that your grace hath wisely thought
And that your tender care of common weale
Hath bred this thought, so to deuise your Lande,
And plant your sonnes to beare the present rule
While you yet liue to see their ruling well,
That you may longer liue by ioy therein.
What further meanes becomuefull are and meete
At greater leisure may your grace deuise,
When all haue said, and when we be agreed
If this be best to part the Realme in twaine,

And

And place your sonnes in present government,
Whereof as I haue plainely said my minde,
So would I heare the rest of all my Lordes.

Philander

In part I thinke as hath bene saide befoze,
In part againe my mind is otherwise,
As for deuiding of this realme in twaine,
And lotting out the same in egall partes,
To either of my Lordes your Graces sonnes,
That thinke I best for this your realmes behoufe,
For profite and aduancement of your sonnes,
And for your comfort and your honour eke:
But so to place them while your life doth last,
To yeeld to them your royall gouernance,
to be aboue them onely in the name
Of father, not in kingly state also,
I thinke not good for you, for them, nor vs,
this kingdome since the bloody ciuill field
Where Morgan slaine did yeeld his conquered part
Vnto his Cosens sward in Cumberland,
Conteincth all that whilo me did suffice
three noble sonnes of your foresather Brute,
So your two sonnes it may also suffice,
the mo the stronger, if they gree in one:
the smaller compasse that the realme doth holde,
the easier is the sway thereof to welde,
the neerer Justice to the wronged poore,
the smaller charge, and yet inough for one.
And when the Region is deuided so
that brethren be the Lords of either part,
Such strength doth nature knit betwene them both:
In sundry bodies by conioyned loue,
that not as two, but one of doubled force,
Each is to other as a sure defence,
the noblenes and glozie of the one
Doth sharpe the courage of the others mind,
With vertuous enuie to contend for praise,
And such an egalnes hath nature made,

B. g.

Betwene

Betwene the brethren of one fathers seede,
 As an unkindly wrong it seemes to be,
 To throw the other subiect vnder feete
 Of him, whose peere he is by course of kind,
 And nature that did make this egalnes,
 Oft sore pineth at so great a wrong,
 That oft she raiseth vp a grudging grée,
 In yonger brethren at the elders state:
 Wherby both towne and kingdoms haue been rased
 And famous stocks of royall blood destroyed:
 The Brother that should be the brothers aide
 And haue a wakefull care for his defence,
 Capes for his death, & blames the lingering yeres,
 That brings not forth his ende with faster course,
 And oft impacient of so long delays,
 With hatefull slaught he presents the fates
 And keepes a iust rewarde for brothers blood,
 With endlesse vengeance on his stocke for aye:
 Such mischances here are wisely met withall:
 If egall state may nourish egall loue,
 Where none hath cause to grudge at others good,
 But now the head to stoupe beneath them both,
 No kind, no reason, no good order beares,
 And oft it hath been sene, that where Nature
 Hath bene preuerted in disordered wise,
 When fathers cease to know that they should rule,
 And children cease to know they should obey,
 And often our unkindly tendernes,
 Is mother of unkindly stubbornnes:
 I speake not this in enuie or reproch,
 As if I grudged the glorie of your sonnes,
 Whose honour I beseech the Gods to increase:
 Nor yet as if I thought there did remaine,
 So filthie cankers in their noble breasts,
 Whom I esteeme (which is their greatest praise)
 Undoubted children of so good a king,
 Onely I meane to shew my certaine Rules,
 Which

Which kinde hath graft within the minde of man,
 That Nature hath her order and her course,
 Which (being broken) doth corrupt the state
 Of mindes and thinges euen in the best of all.
 My Lordes your Sonnes may learne to rule of you,
 Your owne example in your noble Courte,
 As fittest guider of their youthfull yeres,
 If you desire to seeke some present ioye
 By sight of their well ruling in your life,
 See them obey, so shall you see them rule,
 Who so obeyeth not with humblenes
 Will rule with outrage and with insolence,
 Long may they rule I do beseech the Gods,
 But long may they learne ere they begin to rule
 If kinde and sales would suffer I would wish
 Them aged Princes and immortall Kinges:
 Wherefore most noble King I will assent,
 Betwene your sonnes that you deuide your Realm.
 And as in kinde, so match them in degree
 But while the Gods prolong your royall life
 Prolong your reigne, for therto liue you heere,
 And therefore haue the Gods so long forbore
 To ioyne you to themselves, that still you might
 Be Prince and Father of our Common weale:
 They when they see your Children ripe to rule
 Will make them come, and will remoue you hence
 That yours in right ensuing of your life
 May rightly honour your mortall name.

Your wanted true regarde of faithfull hartes,
 Makes me (O King) the bolder to presume
 To speak what I conceiue within my brest,
 Although the same do not agree at all
 With that which other heere my Lords haue said
 Nor which your selfe haue seemed best to like,
 Pardon I craue, and that my wordes be demde
 to flowe from hartly zeale vnto your grace,
 And to the safetie of your Common weale:

Enbulus.

B. iij.

To

The Tragedye

To parte your Realme vnto my Lords your Sonnes
I think not good for you, ne yet for them,
But wouldest of all, for this our native Land:
For with one Land, one single rule is best:
Deuided Regions doe make deuided hartes,
But Peace preserues the Countrey and the Prince,
Such is in man the greedy minde to raigne,
So great is his desire to clumbe alofte,
In worldly Stage the stateleest partes to beare,
that faith and iustice and all kindly loue,
Doe yeelde vnto desire of Soueraigntie:
Where egall state doth raise an egall hope
to winne the thing that either would attaine,
Your grace remembreth how in passed yeeres,
the mighty Brute, first Prince of all this Lande,
Possessed the same and ruled it well in one,
He thinking that the compasse did suffice
For his three Sonnes three Kingdomes eke to make:
Cut it in three, as you would now in twaine:
But how much Brutish blood hath since been spilt
to ioyne againe the sundred unitie:
What Princes slaine before their timely honour?
What waste of townes and people in the Land?
What treasons heaped on murders and on spoiles?
Whose iust reuenge euen yet is scarcely ceased,
Ruthfull remembrance is yet had in minde:
the Gods forbid the like to chaunce againe.
And you (O King) giue not the cause thereof:
My Lord Ferrex your elder Sonne, perhappes
whome kinde and custome giues a rightfull hope
to be your Heire and to succede your Reigne,
Shall think that he dooth suffer greater wrong
then he perchaunce will beare, if power serue;
Porrex the yonger so vnpaied in state,
Perhaps in courage will be raised also,
If flattery then which failes not to assaile
the tender mindes of yet vnskillfull youth,

In one shall kinde and encrease disdain:
 If Enuie in the others hart enflame,
 This fire shall waste their loue, their liues, their land,
 And ruthfull ruine shall destroy them both.
 I wish not this (O King) so to befall
 But feare the thing, that I doe most abhorre,
 Giue no beginning to so dreadfull end,
 Keepe them in order and obedience:
 And let them both by now obeying you,
 Learne such behauiour as becomes their state,
 The Elder mildenes in his gouernaunce,
 the yonger, a yeelding contentednes:
 And keepe them neere vnto your presence still,
 that they rektained by the awe of you,
 May liue in compasse of well tempred staie,
 And passe the perrilles of their youthfull yeeres.
 Your aged life drawes on to feeble time,
 wherein you shall lesse able be to beare
 the trauailes that in youth you haue susteined,
 Both in your persons and your Realmes defence,
 If planting now your Sonnes in further partes,
 You send them furder from your present reach,
 Lesse shal you know how they themselves demaund
 traiterous coꝛrupters of their pliant youth,
 Shall haue vnspied a much moze free accesse,
 And of ambition and inflamed disdain,
 Shall arme the one, the other, or them both
 to euill warre, or to vsurping pride.
 Late shall you rue, that you ne recked befoze:
 God is I graunt of all to hope the best,
 But not to liue still dreadles of the worst.
 So trust the one that the other be foꝛseene,
 Arme not vnskillfulnes with princely power,
 But you that long haue wisely ruled the reignes,
 Of Royaltie within your noble Realme,
 So holde them, while the Gods foꝛ our auayles,
 Shall stretch the threed of your prolonged daies.

The Tragedye

To soone he clamme, into the flaming Carte
Whose want of skill did set the earth on fire,
Time and example of your noble Grace,
Shall teache your Sonnes both to obey and rule:
When time hath taught them, time shall make them pace
the place that now is full: and so I pray
Long it remaine, to comfort of vs all.

Gorboduc. I take your faithfull hartes in thankfull parte
But sith I see no cause to draw my minde,
To feare the nature of my louing Sonnes,
Or to misdeeme that Enue or disdain,
Can there work hate, where nature planteth loue,
In one selfe purpose doe I still abide,
My loue extendeth egally to both,
My Land suffiseth for them both also:
Humber shall parte the Marches of their Realmes:
The Sotherne parte the elder shall possesse,
The Northerne shall Porrex the yonger rule,
In quiet I will passe mine aged daies,
Free from the trauaile and the painefull cares
That hasten age vpon the worthiest kinges.
But least the fraude that ye doe seeme to feare
Of flattering tunges, corrupt their tender youth,
And wziet them to the waies of youthfull lust,
To climbing pride or to reuenging hate,
Or to neglecting of their carefull charge
Lewdelye to liue in wanton rechelesnesse,
Or to oppzessing of the rightfull cause
Or not to wreke the wzonges done to the poore,
To tread downe trueth or fauour false deceite,
I meane to ioyne to either of my Sonnes,
Some one of those whose long approued faith,
And wisdom tried may well assure my hart:
That myning fraude shall finde no way to creepe,
Into their fenced eares with graue aduise:
This is the end, and so I pray you all
To beare my Sonnes the loue and loyaltie

That

That I haue found within your faithfull breasts.

You, nor your sonnes our souereigne Lord shall want
Our faith and service while our liues do last.

Aroftus.

When settled stay doth hold the royall throne,
In stedfast place by knowne and doubtles right:
And cheefely when discent on one alone
Make single and vnparted reigne to light.
Ech chaunge of course vnioints the whole estate
And yeldes it thzall to ruine by debate.

Chorus.

The strength that knit by last accoꝝd in one
Against all foꝝreine power of mightie foes,
Could of it selfe defend it selfe alone,
Disioyned once, the foꝝmer foꝝce doth lose
The sticks, that sundꝝed bzake so sone in twaine
In sagot bound attempted were in vaine.

Oft tender mind that leades the partiall eye
Oferring parents in their childꝝens loue,
Destroies the wzongfull loued childe thereby:
This doth the pzoud sonne of *Apollo* pzoue,
Who rashly set in Chariot of his fire,
Inflambe the parched earth with heauens fire.

And this great king that doth deuide his Lande,
And chaungde the course of his descending crowne,
And yelds the raigne into his childꝝens hand,
From blisfull state of ioy and great renowne,
A mirrour shall become to pzinces all
To learne to thunne the cause of such a fall.

¶ The Order and signification of the dumbe
shew before the second Acte.

¶ First the Musike of Cornets began to play, during which
came in vpon the stage a king accompanied with a num-
ber of his Nobilitie and Gentlemen. And after he had pla-
ced himselfe in a Chaire of estate prepared for him: there
came and kneeled before him a graue and aged Gentle-
man, and offered vp a Cuppe vnto him of wine in a glasse,

C.

which

The Tragedye

which the king refused. After him comes a braue and lustie yoong Gentleman, and presents the King with a cup Golde filled with poyson, which the King accepted, and drinking the same, immediately fell downe dead vpon the stage, and so was carryed thence away by his Lordes and Gentlemen, and then the Musicke ceased. Heereby was signified, that as Glasse by nature holdeth no poyson, but is cleare and may easily be seenethrough, ne boweth by any arte: So a faithfull Counsellour holdeth no treason, but is playne and open, ne yeeldeth to anie vndiscrete affection, but giueth any wholesome Counsell, which the ill aduised Prince refuseth. The delightfull Golde filled with poyson betokeneth Flatterie, which vnder faire seeming of pleasaunt wordes beareth deadly poyson, which destroyeth the Prince that receyueth it. As befell in the two Brethren, *Ferrex*, and *Porrex*, who refusing the wholesome aduise of graue Counsellours, credited these yoong Parasites, and brought vnto themselues death and destruction thereby.

Actus secundus. Scena prima.

Ferrex. Hermon. Dordan.

Ferrex. I Peruaile much what reason leade the king
By father thus without all my desarte
To reauie me halfe the kingdome which by course
Of lawe and nature should remaine to me.

Hermon. If you with stubbozne and vntamed pride
Had stode against him in rebellious wise,
Or if with grudging minde you had enuyde,
So slow a sliding of his aged yeeres,
Or sought before your time to haste the course
Of fatall death vpon his Royall head,
Or staine your stocke with murder of your kinne:
Some face of reason might perhaps haue seemed

To

To yeld some likely cause to spoile ye thus.

The wretchedfull Gods powre on my cursed heade
Eternall plagues and neuer dying woes:

Ferrex.

The hellish Prince adiudge my damned Ghost
To Tantalus thirst, or proud Ixions wheele,
Or cruell Gripe to gnaw my groaning hart
To during torments and vnquenched flames
If euer I conceived so foule a thought,
To wish his ende of life, or yet of reigne.

Dordan.

Be yet your father (O most noble prince)
Did euer thinke so foule a thing of you,
For he with moze than fathers tender loue
While yet the fates doe lend him life to rule,
(Who long might liue to see your ruling well)
To you my Lord, and to his other sonne
He he resignes his realme and royaltie,
Which neuer would so wise a prince haue done,
If he had once misdeem'd that in your hart
There euer lodged so vnkind a thought.
But tender loue (my Lord) and settled trust
Of your good nature, and your noble minde,
Made him to place you thus in royall throne,
And now to giue you halfe his Realme to guide,
Pea and that halfe within abounding store
Of things that serue to make a welthie realme,
In stately Cities and in fruitfull soyle,
In temperate breathing of the milder heauen,
In things of needfull vse, which frendly Sea
Transports by traffike from the foraine portes,
In flowing welth, in honour and in force,
Doth passe the double value of the part
That Porrex hath allotted to his reigne,
Such is your case, such is your fathers loue.

Ah loue my friends, loue wrongs not whom he loues.

Ferrex.

Be yet he wrongeth you that giueth you
So large a reigne ere that the course of time
Bring you to kingdome by descended right,

Dordan,

C.ij.

which

The Tragedye

Ferrex.

Which time perhaps might end your time before.
 Is this no wrong, say you, to reave from me
 My native right, of halfe so great a Realme,
 And thus to match his yonger sonne with me
 In egall power, and in as great degree:
 Yea and what sonne? the sonne whose swelling pride
 Would neuer yeld one point of reuerence,
 When I the elder and apparant heire
 Stood in the likelyhood to possesse the whole,
 Yea and that sonne which from his childish age
 Enuieth mine honour, and doth hate my life,
 What will he now doe? when his pride, his rage,
 The mindfull malice of his grudging hart
 Is armed with force, with welth and kingly state.

Hermion.

Was this not wrong? yea ill advised wrong,
 To giue so mad a man so sharpe a sword,
 To so great perill of so great mishap,
 Wide open thus to set so large a way.

Dordan.

Alas my Lord, what griefull thing is this?
 That of your brother you can thinke so ill,
 I neuer sawe him vtter likely signe
 Whereby a man might see or once misdeme
 Such hate of you, ne such vnyielding pride:
 All is their counsell, shamefull be their ende,
 That raising such mistrustfull feare in you,
 Sowing the seede of such unkindly hate,
 Trauaile by reason to destroy you both:
 While is your brother and of noble hope,
 Worthie to weeld a large and mightie realme,
 So much a stronger friend haue you thereby,
 Whose strength is your strength, if you gree in one.

Hermion.

If nature and the Gods had pinched so
 Their flowing bountie and their noble gifts
 Of princely qualities from you my Lord,
 And powde them all at once in wastfulll wise
 Upon your fathers yonger sonne alone:
 Perhaps there be that in your prejudice

Would

Would say that birth should yield to worthines:
 But sith in each good gift and princely Act,
 Ye are his match, and in the chiefe of all
 In mildenes and in sober gouernaunce,
 ye far surmount: And sith there is in you
 Suffising skill and hopefull towardnes,
 to weld the whole and match your elders praise,
 I see no cause why ye should lose the halfe,
 He would I wish you yeelde to such a losse:
 Least your milde sufferance of so great a wrong,
 Be deemed cowardise and simple dread:
 which shall giue courage to the fiery head
 Of your yong Brother to invade the whole,
 whiles yet therfore sticks in the peoples minde
 The loathed wrong of your disheritaunce,
 And ere your Brother haue by settled power,
 By guilefull cloake of an alluring shewe,
 Got him some force and fauour in this Realme
 And while the noble Quene your mother liues,
 To worke and practise all for your auaille
 Attempt redresse by Armes, and weake your self
 Upon his life that gaineth by your losse,
 Who now to shame of you, and greafe of vs,
 In your owne Kingdome triumphes ouer you:
 Shew now your courage meet for kinglike estate
 that they which haue auowd to spend their goods
 Their landes, their liues & honours in your cause,
 May be the bolder to maintain your parte
 when they do see that cowardie feare in you,
 Shall not betray ne faile their faithfull hartes,
 If once the death of Porrex end the strife,
 And pay the price of his vsurped Reigne,
 Your mother shall perswade the angry King,
 the Lords your friends eke shall appease his rage
 For they be wise and well they can foresee,
 That ere long time your aged fathers death
 will bring a time when you shall well requite

C.ij.

Their

The Tragedye

Their friendly fauour, or their hatefull spite,
Pea, or their slacknes to auance your cause,
Wise men doe not so hang on passing state
Of present Princes, chæfely in their age,
But they will further cast their reaching eye
To biewe and weigh the times and reignes to come,
Pe is it likely though the King be wꝛath,
That he yet will, or that the Realme will beare
Extreme reuenge vpon his onely Sonne:
Or if he would, what one is he that dare
Be minister to such an enterprise.
And here you be now placed in your owne
Amid your friends, your vassalles and your strength
We shall defend and keepe your person safe,
Till either Counsell turne his tender minde,
Or age, or sorrow ende his weary daies
But if the feare of Gods and secret grudge
Of natures Lawe, repining at the fact,
Withholde your courage from so great attempte:
Know ye that lust of kingdomes hath no Lawe,
The Gods doe beare and well allow in Kings,
The thinges they abhorre in rascall routes.
When Kings on slender quarrels run to warres,
And then in cruell and vnkindely wise,
Commaund thefts, rapes, murder of Innocents,
To spoyle of townes and reignes of mighty realms
Think you such Princes doe suppressse themselves,
Subiect to Lawes of kinde and feare of Gods,
Yet none offence, but decked with glorious name
Of noble Conquests in the handes of Kings,
Murders and violent theftes in priuate men,
Are heinous crimes and full of foule reproche:
But if you like not yet so hotte deuise,
Pe list to take such vauntage of the time.
But though with great perill of your state,
You will not be the first that shall inuade,
Assemble yet your force for your defence,

And

And for your safetie stand vpon your garde.

23

Dordan.

Heauen was there ever heard or knowne,

So wicked Counsell to a noble Prince:

Let me (my Lord) disclose vnto your grace

This heinous tale, what mischæfe it conteines:

Your Fathers death, your Brothers and your owne,

Your present murder and eternall shame:

Heare me (O King) and suffer not to sinke,

So high a treason in your Princely brest.

The mighty Gods forbid that euer I,

Ferrex.

Should once conceiue such mischæfe in my hart,

Although my Brother hath bereft my Realme,

And beare perhaps to mee an hatefull minde,

Shall I reuenge it, with his death therfore?

O shall I so destroy my Fathers life

That gaue me life, the Gods forbid I say,

Cease you to speake so any moze to me,

Be you my friend with aunswere once repeate

So foule a tale, in silence let it dye:

What Lord or Subiect shall haue hope at all,

That vnder me they safely shall enioy

Their goods, their honours, lands and liberties,

With whom, neither one onely brother deere,

Be Father deerer, could enioy their liues?

But sith, I feare my yonger brothers rage,

And sith perhaps some other man may giue

Some like aduise, to moue his grudging head

At mine estate: which counsell may perchaunce

Take greater force with him, then this with me,

I will in secret so prepare my selfe,

As if his mallice or his lust to raigne,

Break forth with Armes or sodeine violence

I may withstand his rage and keepe mine owne.

I feare the fatall time now draweth on,

Dordan.

When cyuill hate shall ende the noble lyne

Of famous Brute and of his royall seede,

Great loue defend the mischæfes now at hand,

That

That the Secretaries wise aduise
 Had earst beene heard when he besought the King
 Not to deuide his land, noz send his Sonnes
 to further partes from p[re]sence of his Courte,
 He yet to yelde to them his gouernaunce.
 Loe such are they now in the Royall thzone
 As was that Phaeton in Phoebus Carre
 He then the fiery Steedes did drawe the flame
 With wilder randon through the kindled Skies,
 Then traiterous counsell now will whirle about,
 The youthfull heads of these vnskillfull Kinges,
 But I heereof their Father will enforme,
 The reuerence of him per haps shall stay
 the growing mischæfes, while they yet are greene,
 If this helpe not, then woe vnto themselves,
 The Prince, the people, the deuided Land.

Actus secundus. Scena secunda.

Porrex. Tyndar. Philander.

Porrex.

And is it thus? And doth he so prepare
 Against his Brother as his mortall foe?
 And now while yet his aged Father liues:
 Neither regards he him? noz feares he me:
 Warre would he haue? and he shall haue it so.

Tyndar.

I saw my selfe the great prepared force,
 Of Horse, of Armours and of weapons there,
 He bring I to my Lord reported tales,
 Without the ground of sene and searched troth,
 Loe secret quarrelles runne about his Courte,
 to bring the name of you my Lord in hate
 Eche man almost can now debate the cause,
 And aske a reason of so great a wrong,
 while he so noble and so wise a Prince,
 Is as vnworthy rest his Heritage.
 And why the King mislead by crafty meanes
 Deuided thus his Land from course of right.

The

The wiser sozt holde downe their griefull heads,
 Ech man withdraues from talke and company
 Of those that haue beene knowne to fauour you,
 To hide the mischiefe of their meaning there.
 Rumors are spzed of your pzeparing heere.
 The rascall numbers of the vnskilfull sozt
 Are filled with monstrous tales of you and yours,
 In secret I was counsailed by my friends
 To hast me thence, and bzought you as you knowe
 Letters from those that both can truly tell,
 And would not wzite vnlesse they knew it well.

My Lord, yet ere you now vnkindly warre,
 Send to your bzother to demaund the cause:
 Perhaps some traiterous tales haue filled his eares
 With false repozts against your noble Grace,
 Which once disclosde shall end the growing strife
 That els not staide with wise foresight in time,
 Shall hazard both your kingdoms and your liues:
 Send to your father eke, he shall appease
 Your kindled minds, and rid you of this feare.

Philander

Kid me of feare? I feare him not at all,
 He will to him, he to my father send
 If daunger were soz one to tarrie there;
 I thinke ye it safety to returne againe,
 In mischiefes such as *Ferrex* now intends,
 The wonted courteous lawes to messengers
 Are not obserued, which in iust warre they vse.
 Shall I so hazard anie one of mine?
 Shall I betray my trustie friend to him?
 That hath disclosde his treason vnto me?
 Let him intreat that feares, I feare him not:
 Shall I to the king my father sende,
 Pea and sende now while such a mother liues,
 That loues my bzother and that hateth me.
 Shall I giue leysure by my fond delays
 To *Ferrex* to oppresse me at vnware?
 I will not, but I will inuade his realme

Porrex.

D.

And

And seeke the traitour pzince within his court,
 Mischiefe for mischiefe is a due reward.
 His wretched head shall pay the worthe price
 Of this his treason and his hate to me,
 Shall I abide, intreat, and send and pray:
 And holde my yelden throte to traitours knife:
 While I with valiant mind and conquering force
 Might rid my selfe of foes, and winne a realme,
 Yet rather when I haue the wretches head,
 Then to the king my father will I send,
 The bootles case may yet appease his wraath:
 If not I will defend me as I may.

Philander.

Lo here the end of these two youthfull kings,
 The fathers death, the reigne of their two realmes,
 A most unhappie state of Counsellors,
 That light on so unhappie Lords and times,
 That neither can their good aduise be heard,
 Yet must they beare the blames of ill successe:
 But I will to the king their father haue,
 Ere this mischæse come to that likely ende,
 That if the mindfull wraath of wrekefull Gods
 Since mightie Ilions fall not yet appeased
 With these poore remnant of the Troians name
 Haue not determinedly vnmoued fate
 Out of this realme to race the Brutish line
 By good aduise, by awe of fathers name,
 By force of wiser Lords, this kindled hate
 May yet be quencht ere it consume vs all.

Chorus,

When youth not bidden with a guiding stay,
 Is left to random of their owne delight,
 And welds whole realms by force of soueraigne sway
 Great is the daunger of vnmastred might,
 Least skillesse rage throw downe with headlong fall
 their lands, their states, their liues, their selues & all
 When growing pride doth fill the swelling brest,
 And greedie lust doth raise the climbing mind,
 Oh hardly may the perill be repress,

Pe feare of angrie Gods, ne Lawes kinde,
Pe Country care can fired harts restraine
When force hath armed enuie and disdaine.

When kings of foreset will neglect the reede,
Of best aduise, and yeld to pleasing tales,
That doe their fancies noysome humour seede,
Pe reason, noz regard of right auailles,
Succceding heapes of plagues shall teach too late
To learne the mischiefes of misguiding state.

Fowle fall the traitour false that vndermines,
The loue of bzethzen to destroy them both,
Woe to the prince, that pliaunt eare inclines
And yelds his minde to poisonous tale that floweth
From flattering mouth, and woe to wretched lande
that waits it selfe with ciuill sword in hande.

Loe, thus it is poison in golde to take,
And wholesome drinke in homely cuppe forsake.

¶ The Order and signification of the dumbe
shewe before the third Acte.

¶ First the Musike of Fluites beganne to play, during which
came in vppon the Stage a companie of Mourners all clad
in blacke, betokening Death and sorrowe to ensue vpon
the ill aduised misgouernement and dissention of Bre-
thren, as befell vpon the murder of *Ferrex* by his yonger
brother. After the Mourners had passed thrise about the
Stage, they departed, and then the Musike caused.

Actus tertius. Scena prima.

Gorboduc. Eubulus. Aroftus. Philander. Nuntius.

O Cruell fates, O mindfull wrath of Gods,
Whose vengeance neither *Simois* streined streames
Flowing with blood of *Troian* princes staine,
Nor *Phrygian* fields made ranke with Cozpsles dead

Gorboduc,

D.g.

Al.

The Tragedye

Of Asian kings and Lords can yet appease,
 The slaughter of unhappie Pryams race
 For Ilions fall made leuell with the soile,
 Can yet suffice : but still continued rage
 Pursue our liues, and from the farthest seas
 Doth chaste the issues of destroyed Troy:
 Oh no man happie till his end be seene,
 If any flowing wealth and saming ioy
 In present yeeres might make a happie wight,
 Happie was Hecuba the wofullest wretch
 That euer liued to make a mirrour of,
 And happie Pryam with his noble sonnes,
 And happie I till now. Alas, I see
 And feele my most unhappie wretchednes:
 Behold my Lords, read ye this Letter here,
 Lo it containes the ruine of this realme
 If timely speed prouide not hastie helpe,
 Yet, O ye Gods, if euer wofull king
 Might moue you kings of kings, wreake it on me
 And on my sonnes, not on this giltles realme.
 Send downe your wasting flames from wrathfull skies,
 To reauue me and my sonnes the hatefull breath.
 Read, read my Lordes : this is the matter why
 I called ye now to haue your god aduise.

¶ The Letter from *Dordan* the Coun-
fellow of the elder Prince.

Eubulus readeth the Letter.

M^y Soueraigne Lord, what I am loth to write
 But lothest am to see, that I am forced
 By Letters now to make you vnderstand,
 My Lord Ferrex your eldest sonne mislead
 By traitours fraude of yong vntempered wittes,
 Assembleth force against your yonger sonne,
 He can my counsell yet withhold the heate
 And furious pangs of his inflamed heat:

Disdaine

Disdaine(saith he)of his inheritaunce
Armes him to wzeke the great pretended wzong
With cyuill Sword vpon his Bzothers life,
If pzestent helpe do not restraine this rage
This flame wil waste your sonnes,your land & you.
Your Maesties faithfull and most
humble Subiect *Dordan.*

O King, appease your græse and stay your plaint
Great is the matter and a wofull case:
But timely knowledge may bzing manly help.
Send for them both vnto your pzesence hære,
The reuerence of your honour,age,and state,
Your graue aduice,the awe of fathers name
Shall quickly knit againe this bzoken peace:
And if in either of my Lozdes your Sonnes,
Be such vntamed and vnyelding pzide
As will not bend vnto your noble Vesses.
If Ferrex the elder Sonne can beare no pære,
Or Porrex not content,aspire to moze
Then you him gaue aboue his natieue right:
Ioyne with the iuster side,so shall you force
Them to agræ:and holde the Land in stay.

What meaneth this:loe yonder comes in haste,
Philander from my Lozd your yonger Sonne.

The Gods send ioyfull newes.

The mihty loue

Pzeseue your Maestie,D noble King.

Philander,welcome: But how doth my Sonne?

Your sonne,sir,liues and healthie I him left:

But yet (O King) this want of lustfull health,
Could not be halfe so græsefull to your grace,
As these most wzetched tidinges that I bzing.

O heauens yet moze:no end of woes to me?

Tindar,O King,came lately from the Courte,
Of Ferrex,to my Lozd your yonger Sonne,
And made repozte of great pzepared Roze

D.ij.

Of

Arostus.

Eubulus.

*Gorboduc.
Philander*

*Gorboduc.
Philander.*

*Gorboduc,
Philander.*

Of warre, and saith that it is wholly ment
Against Porrex for high disdain that he
Lives now a King and egall in degree
With him, that claimeth to succede the whole.
As by due title of discending right:
Porrex is now so set on flaming fier,
Partely with kindled rage of cruell wrath,
Partely with hope to gaine a Realme therby,
That he in haste prepareth to invade
His Brothers Land, and with unkindely warre
Threatens the murder of your elder Sonne,
He could I him perswade that first he should,
Send to his brother to demaund the cause:
For yet to you to stay his hatefull strife,
Wherefore lye there no more I can be heard,
I come my selfe now to enforme your Grace:
And to beseeche you as you loue the life
And safetie of your Children and your Realme,
Now to employ your wisdome and your force
To stay this mischance ere it be too late.

Gorboduc.

Are they in Armes? would he not send for me?
Is this the honour of a Fathers name?
In vaine we trauaile to asswage their mindes,
As if their hartes whome neither Brothers loue
Nor Fathers awe, nor Kingdomes care can moue
Our counsells could withdraue from raging heate,
Loue slay them both, and end the cursed Line,
For though perhaps feare of such mighty force
As I my Lords, ioynd with your noble aides
May yet raise, shall expresse their present heate,
The secret grudge and malice will remaine
The fier not quenched, but kept in close restrainte
Fed still within, breakes forth with double flame
Their death and mine must please the angry Gods.

Philander.

Peelde not, O King, so much to weake dispaire,
Your Sonnes yet live, and long I trust they shall:
If fates had taken you from earthly life,

Before

Befoze beginning of this euill strife:
 Perhaps your Sonnes in their vnmaistered youth,
 Lose from regarde of any liuing wight,
 Would runne on headlong, with vnbrideled Race
 To their owne death and ruine of this Realme.
 But sith the Gods that haue the care for Kinges,
 Of thinges and times dispose the order so
 That in your life this kindled flame breakes forth
 While yet your life, your wisdome and your power,
 May stay the growing mischæfe, and repressse
 The fiery blaze of their vnkindled heate
 It seemes, and so ye ought to deeme therof,
 That louing loue hath tempred so the time
 Of this debate to happen in your daies
 That you yet liuing may the same appeaze,
 And adde it to the glozy of your latter age
 And they your Sonnes may learne to liue in peace.
 Beware (O King) the greatest harne of all,
 Least by your wailefull plaints your hastened death
 Yelde larger roome vnto their growing rage:
 Preserue your life, the only hope of stay:
 And if your highnes heerin list to vse
 Wisdome or force, counsell or knightly aide:
 Loe we our persons, powers and liues are yours,
 Vse vs till death, O King, we are your owne.

Loe here the perrill that was erst foresene
 When you (O King) did first deuide your Land
 And yelde your present raigne vnto your Sonnes.
 But now (O noble Prince) now is no time
 to waile and plaine, and waste your wofull life,
 Now is the time for present good aduice,
 Sorrow doth darke the iudgement of the wit
 The hart vnbroken and the courage free
 from feeble faintenes of bootles dispaire
 Doth either rise to safetie or renowne,
 By noble valour of vnuanquished minde:
 Or yet doth perrish in moze happie sorte.

Eubulus.

Your

The Tragedye

Pour Grace may send to either of your Sonnes
 Some one both wise and noble personage,
 Which with god counsell and with weightye name
 Of Father shall present befoze their eyes
 Pour best, your life, your safetie and their owne,
 The present mischæse of their deadly strife
 And in the while, assemble you the force
 Which your commaundement and the speedy haste,
 Of all my Lords hære present can prepare:
 The terrour of your mighty power shall staye
 The rage of both, or yet of one at least.

Nuntius.

O King the greatest græse that euer Prince did
 That euer wofull messenger did tell, (heare,
 That euer wretched Land hath seene befoze
 I bring to you. Porrex your yonger Sonne
 With sudden force, inuaded hath the Land
 That you to Ferrex did allotte to rule:
 And with his owne most bloody hand he hath
 His Brother slaine, and doth possesse his Realme.

Gorboduc.

O heauens send down the flames of your reuenge,
 Destroy I say with flash of weakefull fier,
 The traitour Sonne, and then the wretched fire.
 But let vs goe, that yet perhaps I may,
 Dye with reuenge, and peaze the hatefull Gods.

Chorus.

The lust of Kingdomes knowes no sacred faith,
 No rule of reason, no regarde of right:
 No kindly loue, no feare of heauens wrath:
 But with contempt of Gods, and mans despise,
 Through bloodye slaughter doth prepare the waies,
 To fatall Scepter and accursed reigne.
 The sonnes so loathes the fathers lingring daies,
 He dreads his hand in Brothers blood to staine
 O wretched Prince, ne dost thou yet recozde,
 He yet fresh Murthers done within the Lands
 Of thy fozefathers, when the cruell Sword
 Bereft Morgan his life with Cozins hand:
 Thus fatall plagues pursue the guiltie race

Whose

Whose murderous hand imbued with gittles bloud
 Askes vengeance befoze the heanens face,
 With endles mischiefes on the cursed bzod,
 The wicked child this bzings to wofull Sire,
 The mournefull plaints to wast his weary life:
 Thus do the cruell flames of ciuill fire
 Destroy the parted reigne with hatefull strife.
 And hence doth spring the well from which doth flowe,
 The dead blacke streams of mournings, plaints and wor:

¶ The Order and signification of the dumbe
shewe before the fourth Acte.

¶ First the Musike of Howeboies began to playe, during
 which there came forth from vnder the Stage, as though
 out of Hell three Furies, *Alecto*, *Megea*, and *Cressphone*,
 clad in blacke garments sprinkled with bloud and flames,
 their bodies girt with Snakes, their heads spred with Ser-
 pents in steed of haire, the one bearing in hir hand a Snake
 the other a whip, and the third a burning firebrand: eche
 driving before them a King and a Queene, which moo-
 ued by Furies, vnnaturally had slaine their owne children.
 The names of the Kings and Queenes were these, *Tanta-*
lus, *Medea*, *Arhamas*, *Ino*, *Cambises*, *Althea*, after that the
 Furies and these had passed about the Stage thrise, they de-
 parted, and then the Musike ceased: heereby was signified
 the vnnaturall murders to followe, that is to saye, *Porrex*
 slaine by his owne mother. And of King *Gorboduc*, and
 Queene *Viden*, killed by their owne Subiects.

Actus quartus. Scena prima.
Viden sola.

Why should I liue and linger forth my time:
 In longer life to double my distresse:
 O mee most wofull wight whome no mishap
 Long ere this day could haue bereaued hence.

E.

Night.

Might not these hands by fortune or by fate
 Haue pearst this brest and life with iron rest,
 In this pallace here where I so long
 Haue spent my daies, could not that happie houre
 Once, once haue hapt in which these hugie frames
 With death by fall might haue oppressed me,
 I should not this most hard and cruell soyle,
 So oft where I haue prest my wretched steps,
 Sometimes had ruth of myne accursed life,
 To rend in twaine and swallow me therein.
 So had my bones possessed now in peace
 Their happie graue within the closed ground,
 And greedie wormes had gnawne this pined hart
 Without my feeling paine: so should not now
 This liuing brest remaine the ruthfull tombe
 Wherein my hart yeelden to death is graued:
 For drier thoughts with pangs of pining grieve
 My dolefull mind hath not afflicted thus,
 O my beloued sonne: O my sweet child,
 My deare Ferrex, my ioy, my liues delight.
 Is my welbeloued sonne, is my sweet child,
 My deare Ferrex, my ioy, my liues delight
 Murdred with cruell death: O hatefull wretch,
 O hainous traitour both to heauen and earth,
 Thou Porrex, thou this damned deed hast wrought,
 Thou Porrex, thou shalt dearely abye the same,
 Traitour to kinne and kinde, to sire and me,
 To thine owne flesh, and traitour to thy selfe,
 The Gods on thee in hell shall weake their wrath,
 And heere in earth this hand shall take reuenge
 On thee Porrex, thou false and caitife wight,
 If after blood so eager were thy thirst,
 And murderous mind had so possessed thee,
 If such hard hart of rocke and stonie flint
 Liued in thy brest, that nothing els could like
 Thy cruell tyrants thought but death and blood,
 Wild sauage beasts might not the slaughter serue

To

To fæde thy grædy will, and in the middest
 Of their entrailes to staine thy deadly handes.
 With blood deserued, and dzinke thereof thy fill:
 O, if nought els but death and blood of man
 Might please thy lust, could none in Britaine land
 Whose hart betoꝛne out of his louing bꝛest
 With thine own hand, o, woꝛke what death thou wouldst
 Suffise to make a sacrifice to appease
 That deadly minde and murderous thought in thee:
 But he who in the selfe same wombe was wꝛapped
 Where thou in dismall houre receiuedst life:
 O, if needes, needes this hand might slaughter make,
 Mightst thou not haue reacht a moꝛtall wound,
 And with thy sword haue pierst this cursed wombe
 That the accursed Porrex bꝛought to light:
 And giuen me a iust rewarde therefoꝛe.
 So Ferrex, if sweet life might haue enioyed
 And to his aged father comfoꝛt bꝛought,
 With some yong sonne in whome they both might liue.
 But wherevnto waste I this ruthfull speech
 To thee that hath thy bꝛothers bloud thus shed:
 Shall I still thinke that from this wombe thou spꝛong:
 That I thee bare: o, take thee foꝛ my sonne:
 No traitour, no: I thee refuse foꝛ mine,
 Murderer I thee renounce, thou art not mine:
 Neuer, O wꝛetch, this wombe conceiued thee,
 Noꝛ neuer bode I painefull thꝛowes foꝛ thee:
 Chaungeling to me thou art, and not my childe,
 Noꝛ to no wight that sparke of pittie knewe,
 Ruthles vnkind, monster of Natures woꝛke,
 Thou neuer suckt the milke of womans bꝛest,
 But from thy birth the cruell Tigres teates
 Haue nursed, noꝛ yet of flesh and bloud
 Foꝛmed is thy hart but of hard iron wꝛought.
 And wilde and desert woods bꝛed thee to life:
 But canst thou hope to scape my iust reuenge:
 O, that these hands will not be wꝛekte on thee?

C. y.

Doest

The Tragedye

Dost thou not knowe that Ferrex mother liues
That loued him moze dearely than her selfe?
And doth she liue, and is not venged on thee?

Actus quartus. Scena secunda.

Gorboduc. Aroftus. Eubulus. Porrex. Marcella.

Gorboduc, **W**E meruaile much whereto this lingering staie
Falles out so long: Porrex vnto our Court

By order of our Letters is returned,
And Eubulus receiued from vs by hest
At his arriuall heere to giue him charge
Befoze our presence streight to make repaire,
And yet we heare no word whereof he staies.

Aroftus. Lo where he comes and Eubulus with him.

Eubulus. According to your highnes hest to me
Heere haue I Porrex brought euen in such sort
As from his wearied horse he did alight,
For that your Grace did will such hast therein.

Gorboduc. We like and praise this speedie will in you:
To worke the thing that to your charge we gaue.
Porrex, if we so farre should swarue from kinde,
And from these bounds which lawes of nature sets,
As thou hast done by vile and wretched deede
In cruell murder of thy brothers life,
Our present hand could stay no longer time,
But streight should bath this blade in bloud of thee,
As iust reuenge of thy detested crime.

So, we should not offend the lawe of kinde
If now this sword of ours did slay thee heere:
For thou hast murdered him whose heinous death
Euen natures force doth moue vs to reuenge
By bloud againe: But Justice forceth vs
To measure Death for Death, thy due deserte,
Yet sithens thou art our childe, and sith as yet
In this hard case what word thou canst alledge
For thy defence, by vs hath not bene heard,

We are content to stave our will for that
Which Justice bids us presently to worke:
And give thee leave to use thy speech at full
If ought thou have to laye for thine excuse.

Neither O King, I can or will deny
But that this hand from Ferrex life hath rest:
Which fact how much my dole ~ll hart dooth waile
Oh would it mought as full appeare to sight
As inward græse dooth poure it forth to me,
So yet perhaps if euer ruthfull hart
Meltling in teares within a manly bzeast,
Thzough deepe repentance of his bloudy fact,
If euer græse, if euer wofull men
Might moue regreite with sozrow of his faulte,
I thinke the tozment of my mournesfull case
Knowen to your grace, as I do feele the same,
Would force euen wzath her selfe to pittie me.
But as the water troubled with the mudde
Shewes not the face which els the eye should see:
Euen so your Irefull minde with stirred thought,
Can not so perfectly discern my cause,
But this vnhape, amongst so many heapes
I must content me with, most wretched man,
That to my selfe I must referre my woe
In pining thoughtes of mine accursed fact:
Sithence I may not shewe hære my smallest græse
Such as it is, and as my bzeast endures,
Which I esteeme the greatest miserie
Of all mishappes that fortune now can send,
Not that I rest in hope with plainte and teares
Should purchase life: for to the Gods I clepe
For true recozde of this my faithfull speech,
Neuer this hart shall haue the thoughtfull dzead
To dye the death that by your graces dome
By iust desarte, shalbe pronounced to me:
Nor neuer shall this tung once spend this speech,
Pardon to craue, or seeke by sute to liue:

Parrex.

C.ij.

I meane

The Tragedye

I meane not this as though I were not toucht
With care of dreadfull death, or that I helde
Life in contempt: but that I know, the minde
Stoupes to no dread, although the flesh be fraile,
And for my guilte, I yelde the same so great
As in my selfe I finde a feare to sue
For graunt of life.

Gorboduc.

In vaine, O wretch thou thewest
A wofull hart, Ferrex now lyes in graue,
Slaine by thy hand.

Porrex.

Yet this, O Father, heare:
And then I end: Your Maiestie well knowes,
That when my Brother Ferrex and my selfe
By your owne best were ioyned in gouernaunce
Of this your Graces Realme of Brittain Land
I neuer sought nor trauailed for the same,
Nor by my selfe, or by no frend I wrought,
But from your highnes will alone it sprung,
Of your most gracious goodnes bent to me,
But how my Brothers hart euen then repined,
With swollen disdaine against mine egall rule
Seeing that Realme, which by descent should growe
Wholy to him, allotted halfe to me?
Euen in your highnesse Courte he now remaines,
And with my Brother then in nearest place
Who can recozde, what proufe therof was shewde
And how my Brothers enuious hart apperde
Yet I that iudged it my parte to seeke
His fauour and good will, and loth to make
Your highnesse know the thing which should haue brought
Grace to your Grace, and your offence to him,
Hoping by earnest sute should sone haue wonne,
A louing hart within a Brothers brest
Wrought in that sorte that for a pledge of loue
And faithfull hart, he gaue to me his hand.
This made me think, that he had banished quite
All rancour from his thought, and bare to me

Such

Such hartie loue, as I did owe to him:
 But after once we left your Graces Court
 And from your highnesse presence liued aparte,
 This egall rule still, still did grudge him so,
 That now those enuious sparkes which erst lay rakte
 In liuing Cinders of dissembling best,
 Kindled so farre within his hartes disdain
 That longer could he not refraine from pꝛoue
 Of secret pꝛactise to depꝛiue my life
 By Poysons force, and had bereft me so,
 If mine owne Seruant hired to this fact
 And moued by troth with hate to worke the same,
 If time had not belozated it vnto me:
 When thus I saue the knot of loue vnknit,
 All honest League and faithfull pꝛomise broke,
 The Lawe of kinde and troth thus rent in twaine,
 His hart on mischæfe set, and in his best
 Black treason hid then, then did I dispaire
 That euer time could winne him frænd to me,
 Then saw I how he smiled with slaying knife
 Wapped vnder cloake, then saw I deepe deceite
 Lurke in his face and death prepared for me:
 Euen nature moued me then to holde my life
 More deere to me then his, and bad this hand,
 Since by his life my death must needes ensue,
 And by his death my life to be pꝛeserued:
 To shed his bloud, and seeke my safetie so,
 And wisdom willed me without pꝛotract
 In speedy wise to put the same in vse.
 Thus haue I tolde the cause that moued me
 To worke my Brothers death and so I yelde
 My life, my death to iudgement of your grace.

Oh cruell wight, should any cause pꝛeuaille
 To make the staine thy handes with brothers blood
 But what of thee we will resolve to do,
 Shall yet remaine vnknown: Thou in the meane,
 Shalt from our royall pꝛesence banished be

Untill

Gorboduc.

The Tragedye

Untill our Princely pleasure furder shall
To thee be shewed, departe therfoze our sight
Accursed childe. What cruell destiny?
What froward fate hath sorted vs this chaunce
That euen in those, where we should comfort finde,
Where our delight now in our aged daies
Should rest and be, euen there our only græse
And deepest sorowes to abide our life,
Most pining cares and deadly thoughts doe graue.

Arostus.

Your Grace should now in these graue peeres of yours
Haue found ere this the price of mortall Ioyes,
How shor-te they be, how fading here in earth
How full of change, how brittle our estate,
Of nothing sure, saue only of the Death,
To whome both man and all the worlde doth owe
Their end at last, neither shall natures power
In other sorte against your hart preuaile,
Then as the naked hand whose stroke assaies
The armed bzeast where force doth light in vaine.

Gorboane.

Many can yeelde right graue and sage aduice
Of patient spzite to others wrapped in woe,
And can in speech both rule and conquer kinde,
Who if by pzoile, they might feele natures force,
Would shew themselves men as they are indeede,
Which now will needes be Gods: but what doth meane
The sorry cheere that heere doth come?

Marcella.

O where is ruthe: or where is pittie now?
Whether is gentle hart and mercy fled?
Are they exiled out of our stony bzeastes
Neuer to make returne: is all the worlde
Drownd in blood, and suncke in crueltie?
If not in women mercy may be found,
If not (alas) within the Mothers brest
To her owne childe, to her owne flesh and bloud
If ruthe be banished thence, if pittie there
May haue no place, if there no gentle hart
Doe liue and dwell, where should we seske it then?

Adam

Madam (alas) what meanes your wofull tale:
 O silly woman I, why to this howze,
 Haue kind and fortune thus deferred my bzeath:
 That I should liue to see this dolefull daye:
 Will ener wight belæue that such hard hart
 Could rest within the cruell Mothers breast,
 With her owne hand to slaye her onely Sonne:
 But out (alas) these eyes behelde the same,
 They saw the dzierp sight, and are become
 Most ruthefull recozdes of the bloudy fact.
 Porrex, alas, is by his Mother slaine,
 And with her hand a wofull thing to tell,
 While slumbring on his carefull bed he restes,
 His hart skalde in with knife is rest of life.

Gorboduc.
Marcella.

O Eubulus, oh draw this sword of ours,
 And pierce this hart with spæde, O hatefull light,
 O loathsome life, O swæte and welcome Death,
 Deere Eubulus worke this we the besèche.

Gorboduc,

Patient your Grace, perhaps he liueth yet,
 With wound receiued, but not of certaine death.

Eubulus,

O let vs then repaire vnto the place,
 And see if that Porrex, or thus be slaine.

Gorboduc.

Alas he liueth not, it is too true,
 That with these eyes of him a peerles Prince,
 Sonne to a King, and in the flower of youth,
 Cuen with a twinke a senceles stock I saw.

Marcella.

O damned deede.

Aroftus.
Marcella.

But heare this ruthefull end.

The noble Prince pierst with the sodaine wounds
 Out of his wretched slumber hastilie start,
 Whose strength now failing streight he ouerthrew,
 When in the fall his eyes euen now vncloused
 Beheld the Quæene, and cryed to her for helpe,
 We then, alas, the Ladies which that time
 Did there attend, seeing that heinous deede,
 And hearing him oft call the wretched name
 Of mother, and to crie to her for aide,

I.

Whose

The Tragedye

Whose direfull hand gaue him the mortall wound
 Pitieng alas (for nought els could we do) moou yll
 His rusfull ende, ranne to the wofull bed
 Dispoyled streight his brest, and all we might
 Wiped in vaine with naphins next at hande,
 The sodaine streames of bloud that flushed fast
 Out of the gaping wound: O what a looke,
 O what a ruthfull stedfast eye we thought
 He fixed vpon my face, which to my death
 Will neuer parte from me, when with a bzaide
 A deepe set sigh he gaue, and therewithall
 Clasping his hands, to heauen he cast his sight,
 And streight pale death pressing within his face
 The flying ghost his mortall corps forsooke.

Aroftus.

Marcella.

Neuer did age bring forth so vile a face.
 O hard and cruell hap, that thus assigned
 Vnto so worthie a wight so wretched ende,
 But most hard cruell hart that could consent
 To lend the hatefull destenies that hande,
 By which, alas, so heynous crime was wrought,
 O Quene of Adamant, O marble brest,
 If not the fauour of his comely face,
 If not his princely cheare and countenance,
 His valiaunt adiaie armes, his maily brest,
 If not his faire and seemely personage,
 His noble limmes in such proportion cast,
 As would haue wapped a silly womans thought.
 If this might not haue moued the bloodie hart,
 And that most cruell hand the wretched weapon
 Euen to let fall, and kist him in the face,
 With teares for ruth to reauue such one by death.
 Should nature yet consent to slay her sonne?
 O mother, thou to murder thus thy childe,
 Euen Ioue with iustice must with lightning flames
 From heauen send downe some strange reuenge on thee.
 Ah noble Prince, how oft haue I beheld
 Thee mounted on thy fierce and trampling steede,

Shining

Shining in armour bright befoze the Tilt,
And with thy mistrisse steue tide on thy helme,
And charge thy staffe to please thy Ladies eye,
That bowed the head peece of thy frendly foe:
How oft in armes on horse to bend the mace,
How oft in armes on foot to breake the sword,
Which neuer now these eyes may see againe.

Madame, alas, in vaine these plaints are shed, *Aroftus.*
Rather with me depart, and helpe to assuage
The thoughtfull griefes that in the aged king
Must needs by nature growe by death of this
His onely sonne, whome he did hold so deare.

What wight is that which sawe that I did see, *Marcella.*
And could refraine to waile with plaint and teares,
Not I, alas, that hart is not in me,
But let vs go, for I am greened anewe,
To call to minde the wretched fathers woe.

When greedie lust in royall seate to reigne *Chorus.*
Hath rest all care of Gods and eke of men,
And cruell hart, wrath, treason and disdaine
Within the ambitious best are lodged then,
Behold how mischief wide her selfe displayes,
And with the brothers hand the brother slayes.

When bloud thus shed doth staine this heauens face,
Crying to Ioue for vengeance of the deede,
The mightie God euen moueth from his place
With wrath to weke, then send he forth with spade
The dreadfull furies, daughters of the night,
With serpents girt, carrying the whip of ire,
With haire of stinging snakes, and shining bright
With flames and bloud, and with a brand of fire:
These for reuenge of wretched murder done,
Doth cause the mother kill her onely sonne.

Bloud asketh bloud, and death must death requite,
Ioue by his iust and everlasting doome
Justly hath ever so requited it:
These times befoze recozd, and times to come

J. y.

shall

The Tragedye

Shall find it true, and so dooth present proofe
Present befoze our eyes for our behoufe.

O happie wight that suffers not the snare
Of murderous mind to tangle him in blood;
And happie he that can in time beware
By others harmes, and turne it to his good.
But woe to him that fearing not to offend,
Dooth serue his lust, and will not see the end.

¶ The Order and signification of the dumbe
shewe before the fift Acte.

¶ First the Drummes and Fluites began to sounde, dving
which there came foorth vppon the Stage a companie of
Harquebushers and of armed men all in order of battaile.
These after their peece discharged, and that the armed
men had three times marched about the Stage, departed,
and then the Drummes and Fluites did cease. Heereby
was signified Tumultes, Rebellions, Armes, and ciuill
warres to followe, as fell in the Realme of great Britayne,
which by the space of fiftie yeares and more continued
in ciuill warre betweene the Nobilitie after the death
of King Gorboduc, and of his Issues, for want of cer-
taine limitation in the succession of the Crowne, till
the time of Dunwallo Molmutius, who reduced the Land
to Monarchie.

Actus quintus. Scena prima.

Clotyn. Mandud, Gwenard, Fergus. Eubulus.

Clotyn.

DId euer age bring forth such tyrants harts.
The brother hath bereft the brothers life,
The mother she hath dyde her cruell hands
In bloud of her olone sonne, and now at last
The people loe forgetting truth and lone,
Contemning quite both lawe and loyall hart,
Euen they haue slaine their souereigne Lord and Queene.
Shall

Mandad.

Shall this their traiterous crime unpunished rest
 Euen yet they cease not carried out with rage,
 In their rebellious routes, to threaten still
 A new blood shedde vnto the Princes kinne
 To slaye them all, and to vproote the race
 Both of the King and Quene, so are they moued
 With Porrex death, wherein they falsely charge
 The guiltlesse King without desert at all.
 And traiterously haue murdered him therfoze
 And eke the Quene.

Gwenard.

Shall Subiects dare with force
 To work reuenge vpon their Princes fact:
 Admit the worst that may: as sure in this
 The dæde was foule, the Quene to slaye her sonne:
 Shall yet the Subiect seeke to take the sword:
 Arise against his Lord, and slaye his King:
 A wretched state where those rebellious hartes
 Are not rent out euen from their liuing breastes
 And with the body thzowen vnto the fowles
 As Carrion fode, for terror of the rest.

Fergus.

There can no punishment be thought too great
 For this so greuous crime, let speede therfoze
 Be bled therein for it behoueth so.

Eubulus.

We all my Lordes I see consent in one,
 And I as one consent with ye in all:
 I holde it more then neede with the sharpest Lawe,
 to punish the tumultuous bloody rage:
 For nothing more may shake the common state,
 then sufferance of vproares without redresse:
 Wherby how some Kingdomes of mighty power
 After great Conquests made, and flourishing
 In fame and wealth haue beene to ruine brought,
 I pray to loue that we may rather waile
 Such hap in them, then witnes in our selues
 Eke fully with the Duke my minde agrees
 that no cause serues, wherby the Subiect may
 Call to account the doinges of his Prince,

f. ij.

Duch

The Tragedye

Much lesse in blood by sword to wooke reuenge
 No more then may the hand cut of the head,
 In Act nor spech, no: not in secret thought
 The Subject may rebell against his Lord
 O Judge of him that sits in *Cæsars* Seate.
 With grudging minde do damne those *Hemistikes*,
 Though Kinges forget to gouerne as they ought,
 Yet Subiects must obey as they are bound:
 But now my Lordes befoze ye farther wade
 O spend your spech, what sharpe reuenge shall fall
 By iustice plague on these rebellious wights,
 He thinkes ye rather should first searche the way
 By which in time the rage of this uproare,
 Might be repressed, and these great tumults ceased
 Euen yet the life of *Brittaine* Land dooth hang,
 In Traitors Ballaunce of vnequall weight,
 Think not my Lordes the death of *Gorboduc*
 Nor yet *Videnaes* blood will cease their rage:
 Euen our owne liues, our wiues and Children,
 Our Cuntry dearest of all in danger standes,
 Now to be spoyled, now, now made desolate,
 And by our selues a conquest to ensue:
 For giue once sweye vnto the peoples lustes,
 No rush forth on, and stape them not in time,
 And as the streame that rowleth downe the hill,
 So wil they headlong run with raging thoughtes
 From bloud to bloud, from mischæse vnto moe,
 To ruine of the Realme, themselves and all,
 So giddie are the common peoples mindes,
 So glad of change, more wauiing then the Sea,
 He see (my Lordes) what strength these Rebels haue
 What hugie number is assembled still,
 For though the traiterous fact, for which they rose,
 Be wrought and done, yet lodge they still in felde,
 So that how farre their furies yet will stretch.
 Great cause we haue to dread, that we may seeke
 By present Battaille to repress their power,

Spæde

Spæ de must we vse to leuie force therfore,
 For either they forthwith will mischæse worke,
 Or their rebellious roares forthwith must cease:
 These violent thinges may haue no lasting londe
 Let vs therfore vse this for present helpe.
 Perswade by gentle spæch, and offer grace
 With gifte of pardon saue vnto the cheefe.
 And that vpon condicion that forthwith
 They yelde the Captaines of their enterprise,
 To beare such guerdon of their traiterous fact
 As may be both due vengeance to themselves,
 And holesome terrour to posteritie.
 This shall I think: flatter the greatest parte,
 That now are holden with desire of home,
 Wearied in fælde with colde of Winters nightes,
 And some (no doubt) stricken with dzead of Lawe.
 When this is once proclaimed, it shall make
 The Captaines to mistrust the multitude,
 Whose safetie bids them to betraie their heads,
 And so much moze because the rascall routes,
 In thinges of great and perilous attempts,
 Are neuer trustie to the noble race.
 And while we treat and stande on tearmes of grace
 We shall both stay their furies rage the while,
 And eke gaine time, whose only helpe suffiseth
 Withouten warre to banquish the Rebells power
 In the meane while, make you in readines,
 Such band of Hozemen as ye may pzeare:
 Hozemen you know, are not the Comons strength
 But are the force and stoze of noble men
 Wherby the vnchosen and vnarmed sozte
 Of skillish Rebells, whome none other power,
 But number makes to be of dzeadfull force,
 With soddeine bzunt may quickly be oppzest.
 And if this gentle meane of pzoffered grace
 With stubbozne hartes cannot so farre auale
 As to asswage their desperate courages:

Then

Then

The Tragedye

When doe I wish such slaughter to be made,
As present age and eke posteritie
May be adzad with hozrour of reuenge,
That iustly then shall on these Rebelles fall:
This is my Lordes the summe of mine aduise.

Clotin.

Neither this case admittes debate at large,
And though it did: this speche that hath bene sayde,
Hath well abzidged the tale I would haue tolde:
Fully with Eubulus doe I consent
In all that he hath saide: and if the same
To you my Lordes, may seeme for best aduise,
I wish that it should straight be put in vze.

Mandud.

My Lordes then let vs presently departe
And follow this that liketh vs so well.

Fergus.

If euer time to gaine a kingdome here
Were offred man, now it is offred me:
The Realme is rest both of their King and Quene,
The offspring of the Prince is slaine and dead,
No issue now remaines, the Heire unknowne,
The People are in armes and mutinies,
The Nobles they are busied how to cease
These great rebellious tumultes and vproares.
And Brittain Land now deserte left alone
Amid these bzoples vncertaine where to rest,
Offers her selfe vnto that noble hart
that will oz dare pursue to beare her Crowne:
Shall I that am the Duke of *Albanye*
Descended from that line of noble bloud,
Which hath so long flourished in woorthy fame
Of valiant hartes, such as in noble Breasts
Of right should rest aboue the baser sorte,
Refuse to aduenture life to winne a Crowne?
Whom shall I finde enemies that will withstand
My fact herein, if I attempt by Armes
To seeke the same now in these times of bzople,
These Dukes power can hardly well appease
The people that already are in Armes.

But

But if perhaps my force be once in field,
Is not my strength in power above the best
Of all these Lords now left in Britaine land.
And though they should match me with power of men:
Yet doubtfull is the channce of battailes ioyned,
If victors of the field we may depart,
Wurs is the scepter then of great Britaine,
If slaine amid the plaine this bodie be,
Mine enemies yet shall not denie me this,
But that I died giuing the noble charge
To hazard life for conquest of a Crowne.
Forthwith therefore will I in post depart
To Albany, and raise in armour there
All power I can: and here my secre te friends
By secre te practise shall sollicite still
To seeke to winne to me the peoples harts.

Actus quintus. Scena secunda.

Eubulus. Clotyn. Mandud. Gwenard. Aroftus. Nuntius.

Eubulus.

O Thou, how are these peoples harts abused?
What blind furie thus headlong carries them?
That though so many booke, so many rolles
Of auncient time of record what greuous plagues
Light on these Rebels eye, and though so oft
Their eares haue heard their aged fathers tell
What iust reward these traitours still receiue.
Yea though themselues haue seene deepe death and bloud
By strangling cord and slaughter of the sword
To such assignde, yet can they not beware:
Yet can they not stay their rebellious hands,
But suffering to folwe treason to distaine
Their wretched minds, forget their loyall hart,
Reiect all truth, and rise against their pince,
A ruthfull case, that those whom duties bound,
Whom grafted Laue by nature, truth and faith
Bound to preserve their Country and their King,
Bozne to defend their mon welth and pince,

G.

Cuen

The Tragedye

Even they should giue consent thus to subuert
The Britaine land, and from the wombe should byring
(O native soile) those, that will needes destroy
And ruine thee and eke themselves in fine:
For lo, when once the Duke had offered Grace
Of pardon sweet (the multitude misled
By traiterous fraud of their ingracious heads)
One sort that sawe the dangerous successe
Of stubbozne standing in rebellious warre,
And knew the difference of princes power,
From headles number of tumultuous routes,
Whom common countries care and priuate feare
Taught to repent the terrour of their rage,
Laid hands vpon the Captaines of their band,
And brought them bound vnto the mightie Dukes.
Another sort not trusting yet so well
The truth of pardon, or mistrusting more
Their owne offence then that they should conceiue
Such hope of pardon for so fowle misdeede:
Or for that they their Captaines could not yeld,
Who fearing to be yelded fled befoze,
Stole home by silence of the secrete night.
The third unhappie and vnrag'd sort
Of desperate harts, who staid in princes blood,
From traiterous furour could not be withdralone
By loue, by lawe, by grace ne yet by feare,
By proffered life, ne yet by threatened death,
With minds hopeles of life, dreddles of death,
Careles of country, and aweles of God:
Stood bent to fight as furies did them moue
With valiant death to close their traiterous life:
These all by power of horsemen were opprest,
And with reuenging sword slaine in the field,
Or with the strangling rozd hangd on the trees,
Where yet the carrien Cartases do proche
The fruits that rebels reape of their vproars,
And of the murder of their sacred prince,
But loe, where do appoach the noble Dukes,

By whom these tumults haue bene thus appeasde.

Clotyn,

I thinke the world will now at length beware
And feare to put on armes against their prinre.

Mandud,

If not : those traiterous harts that doe rebell,
Let them behold the wide and hugie fields
With bloud and bodie spzed with rebels slaine,
The lustie trees clothed with corpses dead
That strangled with the cord doe hang therein.

Aroftus.

A iust reward such as all times befoze
Haue euer lotted to those wretched folkes.

Gwenard.

But what meanes he that commeth here so fast?

Nuntius.

My Lords, as dutie and my troth doth moue,

And of my Country worke and care in me,

That if the spending of my breath auaille

To doe the seruice that my hart desires,

I would not shun to imbrace a present death,

So haue I now in that wherein I thought

My trauaile might perfourme some good effect

Wentred my life to bring these tidings here.

Fergus the mightie Duke of Albany

Is nowe in armes, and lodgeth in the field

With twentie thousand men, hither he bends

His speedie march, and minds to inuade the crowne,

Daily he gathereth strength, and spreads abroad

That to this Realme no certaine heire remains.

That Britaine land is left without a guide,

That he the scepter seekes, for nothing els

But to preserue the people and the land

Which now remaine as shippe without a sterne:

Loe this is that which I haue hereto said.

Clotyn.

Is this his faith? and shall he falsly thus

Abuse the vauntage of unhappie times?

O wretched Land, if his outrageous pride,

His cruell and vntempred wilfulnes,

His deepe dissembling shewes of false pretence

Should once attaine the Crowne of Britaine land,

Let vs my Lords, with timely force resist

The new attempt of this our common foe,

G. y.

As

The Tragedye

Mandud. As we would quench the flames of common fire.
Though we remaine without a certaine prince
To waeld the realme, or guide the wandring rule,
Yet now the common mother of vs all,
Our native lande, our country that containes
Our wiues, childzen, kindred our selues and all
That euer is or may be deare to man,
Cries vnto vs to helpe our selues and her:
Let vs aduance our powers to represse
This growing foe of all our liberties.

Gwenard. Yea let vs so my Lords with hastie spée,
And ye (O Gods) sende vs the welcome death,
To shed our blood in field, and leaue vs not
In lothsome life to linger out our liues,
To see the hugie heapes of these mishaps,
That now roll downe vpon the wretched lande
Where emptie place of princely gouernaunce,
No certaine stay now left of doubtles heire,
Thus leaue this guideles realme an open pray
To endlesse stroymes and waste of ciuill warre.

Arostus. That ye, my Lords, do so agree in one
To saue your country from the violent raigne
And wrongfully vsurped tyrannie
Of him that thzeatens conquest of you all,
To saue your realme, and in this realme your selues
From so raine thzaldome of so pzoud a prince,
Much do I praise, and I beseech the Gods
With happie honour to requite it you.
But, O my Lords, sith now the heauens wzath
Hath rest this lande the issue of their prince:
Sith of the bodie of our late soueraigne Lord
Remaines no mo, since the yong kings be slaine,
And of the title of the descended Crowne
Uncertainly the diuers mindes do thinke.
Euen of the learned sorte, and moze vncertainlie
Will partiall fancie and affection dame:
But most vncertainly will climbing pride
And hope of reigne withdrazw from sundrie parts

The

The doubtfull right and hopefull lust to reigne,
 When once this noble seruice is atchiued
 For Brittain Land the Mother of ye all,
 When once ye haue with armed force repress,
 The proud attempts of this Albanian Prince,
 That threathens thraldome to your Native Land,
 When ye shall vanquishers returne from felds
 And finde the Princely State an open pray,
 To greedy lust and to vsurping power,
 Then, then (my Lordes) if euer kindly care
 Of ancient honour of your auncestours,
 Of present wealth and noblesse of your stockes:
 Pea of the liues and safetie yet to come
 Of your deere wiues, your Children and your selues
 Might moue your noble hartes with gentle ruthe,
 Then, then haue pittie on the tozne estate,
 Then helpe to salue the well nære hopeles soze
 Which ye shall do, if you your selues withhold
 The sleaing knife from your owne mothers thzoate,
 Her shall you saue, and you and yours in her,
 If ye shall all with one assent forbear
 Once to lay hand, or take vnto your selues,
 The Crowne by colour of pretended right:
 Or by what other meanes so euer it be,
 Till first by common counsell of you all
 In Parliament the Regall Diadem,
 Be set in certaine place of gouernaunce,
 In which your Parliament and in your choise,
 Prefer the right (my Lordes) without respect
 Of strength of frendes, or whatsoeuer cause
 That may set forward any others parte,
 For right will last, and wzong can not endure,
 Right meane I his or hers, vpon whose name
 The people rest by meane of Native line,
 Or by the vertue of some former Lawe,
 Alreadie made their title to aduance:
 Such one (my Lordes) let be your chosen King,
 Such one so bozne within your native Land

The Tragedye

Such one preferre, and in no wise admit,
The heauie yoke of fozeine gouernaunce,
Let fozeine titles yeelde to Publike wealth,
And with that hart wherewith ye now prepare
thus to withstand the proude inuading foe,
With that same hart (my Lordes) keepe out also
Unnaturall thraldome of strangers reigne,
Pe suffer you against the rules of kinde,
Pour Dother Land to serue a Fozeine Prince,

Eubulus.

Loe heere the end of Brutus royall Line,
And loe the entrie to the wofull wack
And vtter ruine of this noble Realme.
the royall King, and eke his Sonnes are slaine,
No Ruler restes within the Regall seate:
the Heire to whom the Scepter longes, vnknown:
that to the force of fozeine Princes power,
Whome bauntage of your wretched state
By sodaine Armes to gaine so rich a Realme,
And to the proude and greedy minde at home
Whome blinded lust to reigne leades to aspire,
Loe Brittain Realme is left an open praye,
A present spoyle by Conquest to ensue,
Who seeth not now how many rising mindes
Doe feed their thoughts, with hope to reach a realme
And who will not by force attempt to winne
So great a gaine that hope perswades to haue:
A simple colour shall for title serue,
Who winnes the royall Crown will want no right
Nor such as shall displace by long discent
A lyniall race to proue him selfe a King.
In the meane while these cruell armes shall rage,
And thus a thousand mischances shall vnfolde
And far and nere spread thee (O Brittain Land)
All right and Law shall cease, and he that had,
Nothing to daye, to morrow shall enioy
Great heapes of good, and he that flowed in wealth,
Loe he shall be rest of life and all,
And happiest he that then posselleth leath.

The

The wiues shall suffer rape, the maidens deflowred
 And Childzen fatherles shall wepe and waile:
 With fier and Sword thy native folke shall perishe,
 One kinsman shall bereaue an others life,
 The father shall unwitting slay the Sonne,
 The Sonne shall slea the Sire and know it not:
 Women and maidens the cruell Souldiers Sword
 Shall pearce to death, and sillie Childzen loe
 That playing in the streetes and feldees are found,
 By violent hand shall close their latter day.
 Whome shall the fierce and bloudie Souldier
 Reserue to life, whome shall he spare from death?
 Cuen thou (O wretched Mother) halfe aliue
 Thou shalt beholde thy deere and only Childe
 Slaine with the sword while he yet suckes thy brest
 Loe, gittles blood shall thus eche where be shed:
 Thus shall the wasted soyle yelde forth no fruite
 But dearty and famine shall possesse the Land.
 The Townes shall be consumed and burnt with fier
 The peopled Citties shall waxe desolate,
 And thou (O Brittain Land) whilome in renowne,
 Whilome in wealth and fame shalt thus be tozne.
 Dismembred thus, and thus be rent in twaine,
 Thus wasted and defaced, spoyled and destroyed:
 These be the fruites your cyuill warres will bring.
 Hæerto it comes when Kinges will not consent,
 To graue aduice, but follow wilfull will:
 This is the end, when in yong Princes hartes
 Flattery preuailes, and sage rede hath no place:
 These are the plagues when murder is the meane
 To make new Heires vnto the Royall Crowne.
 Thus weake the Gods when that y mothers wrath
 Pought but the blood of her own childe may swage
 These mischeefes springes when rebells will arise,
 To worke reuenge and iudge their Princes fact,
 This, this ensues when noble men do faile
 In loyall troth, and subiectes will be Kinges.
 And this doth grow, when loe vnto the Prince,
 Whome

The Tragedye

Whome death or sobeyne hap of life bereaues,
No certaine Heire remaines, such certaintie
As not all only is the rightfull Heire,
But to the Realme is so made unknowne to be
And troth therby bested in subiects hartes,
to owe faith there, where right is knownen to rest
Alas, in Parliament what hope can be,
When is of Parliament no hope at all,
Which though it be assembled by consent,
Yet is it not likely with consent to end:
While eche one for him selfe or for his friend
Against his foe, shall trauaile what he may,
While now the state left open to the man,
That shall with greatest force invade the same,
Shall fill ambitious mindes with gaping hope:
When will they once with yielding hartes agree:
Or in the while, how shall the Realme be vled?
No, no: then Parliament should haue bene holden,
And certaine Heires appointed to the Crowne
to stave their title of established right:
And plant the people in obedience
While yet the Prince did liue, whose name and power
By lawfull Summons and authoritie
Might make a Parliament to be of force,
And might haue set the Realme in quiet stave:
But now (O happie man) what speedy death
Deprives of life, he is enforced to see
These hugie mischaeses and these miseries,
These cyuill warres, these murders and these wzonges,
Of Justice, yet must loue in fine restore,
This noble Crowne vnto the lawfull Heire:
For right will alwayes liue, and rise at length,
But wzong can neuer take deepe roote to last.

¶ The ende of the Tragedie of
King Gorboduc.

